■ Lifestyle / D2

Bootylicious babe is back in town

■ Across / A17

Troopers kill 9 guerrillas in clash

■ World / A12

Hostage pleads for life, but UK stands firm

■ Metro / A22

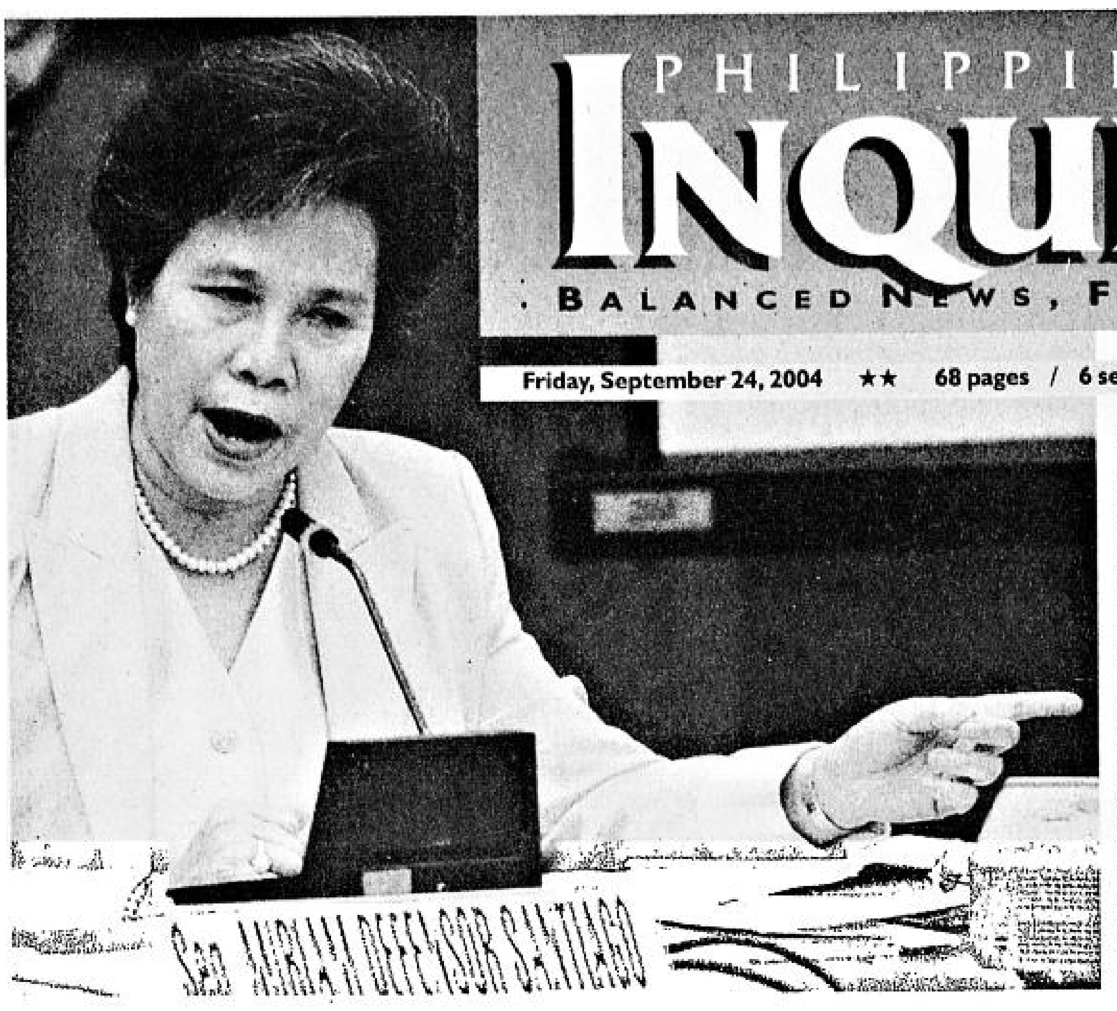
Taxi flagdown rate to go up next month

■ Just Shop

Angel Aquino in a trés chic special

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, September 24, 2004 ★★ 68 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 289 P18



SMOKIN' OLD RIVALS. Former President Fidel Ramos and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago meet again and prove that "old flames" die hard. Her every word sparking with rancor, Santiago grills Ramos on the alleged Smokey Mountain project scam. He insists the project was aboveboard, but asks for the probe to be stopped.

JESS YUSON

Miriam walks out on FVR

Ramos grilled on reclamation project

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE MUCH-AWAITED confrontation between former President Fidel Ramos and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago ended with the senator walking out of the Senate hearing on the controversial Smokey Mountain reclamation project in Tondo, Manila.

While Ramos was being questioned by other senators, Santiago packed her briefcase with documents and shortly after, left the blue ribbon committee hearing at about 4 p.m., or before the hearing concluded.

Santiago said she walked out of the hearing because she was peeved at the "arrogant" way Ramos was answering questions.

She said Ramos resorted to "finger-pointing" by claiming that he merely relied on his advisers and that he was just pursuing the line taken by then President Corazon Aquino on the reclamation project.

Santiago earlier claimed in three privilege speeches last month that the contract signed by the Ramos administration with R-II Builders was unconstitutional because the Constitution barred the sale of reclaimed land to a private corporation.

She said the contract should have been rescinded because R-II Builders failed to comply with the agreement to fully finance the project. Instead, government financing institutions funded it at a cost of P3.1 billion.

"I was afraid I might become too biting in

MIRIAM/ A9

Now, solon says ₱262M in GSIS artworks missing

By Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora

TWENTY-FIVE artworks purchased by the Government Service Insurance System for more than P262 million are missing.

This bombshell which, according to House Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo), is contained in the December 2003 report of the Commission on Audit was the latest to be divulged by the lawmaker in connection with the alleged misuse of funds by GSIS officials.

And he wants Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, to explain:

Suplico yesterday directed the attention of the INQUIRER to Item 3.2 on Page 41 of the COA audit report that stated: "The general insurance department showed that there were 25 artworks with a total amount of P262,510,000 which were included in the insurance list of artworks. However, per inventory conducted, the items no longer exist.

"This resulted in the over-insurance of artworks and, therefore, the unnecessary expenditure for insurance premiums amounting to P1.3 million."

Item 3.1 on the same page of the report stated that "verification of records disclosed that the shortage of P1.759 million pertains to the 11 artworks which were included in the general accounting department schedule but not among those physically counted."

Suplico said only Garcia knew the whereabouts of the 25 artworks mentioned in Item 3.2 and the 11 others cited in Item 3.1 in the report.

NOW/ A21

Escort girl's revelations put solons on edge

By Carlito Pablo and Armand C. Nocum

SOME lawmakers were alarmed, others were relieved. An "escort" girl's revelations on Wednesday about clients in Congress have been met with anything but indifference.

Eighteen-year-old Janine Roque described a congressman-customer "from Luzon" in the worst light possible—he hires two escorts at a time, snorts shabu before sex and urges the girls to do the same, and is well versed in pimpspeak.

"At least it isn't someone from the Visayas or Mindanao. Of course we're relieved," said Rep. Jacinto Paras (LDP, Negros Oriental).

ESCORT/ A11

TERROR TRAINING?

Ceasefire monitors to visit MILF camp

By Christian V. Esguerra

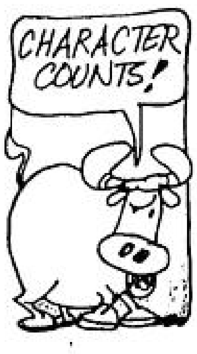
CEASEFIRE monitors of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday agreed to visit an MILF stronghold in Central Mindanao where the rebel group allegedly hosted a training camp for foreign and local operatives of a regional terror network.

The GRP-MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities finalized plans for a visit to the rebel camp on Mount Cararao even as Canberra rejected an MILF invitation for Australian monitors to join the inspection.

US, Australian and Philippine intelligence reports indicated that Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a regional terrorist group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, had trained foreign and local militants at Muaskar Jabal Qusar, the MILF camp on Mount Cararao

CEASEFIRE/ A9

Philandering lawyer disbarred


CHARACTER COUNTS!

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PHILANDERING lawyer who dumped his wife and three children for his mistress has been disbarred.

In a 12-page en banc decision, the Supreme Court said Crispin G. Dantes "had breached the ... exacting moral standards set for members of the law profession" and deserved such a sanction for his "highly immoral conduct."

PHILANDERING/ A21

Bush admits US wrong on dictators

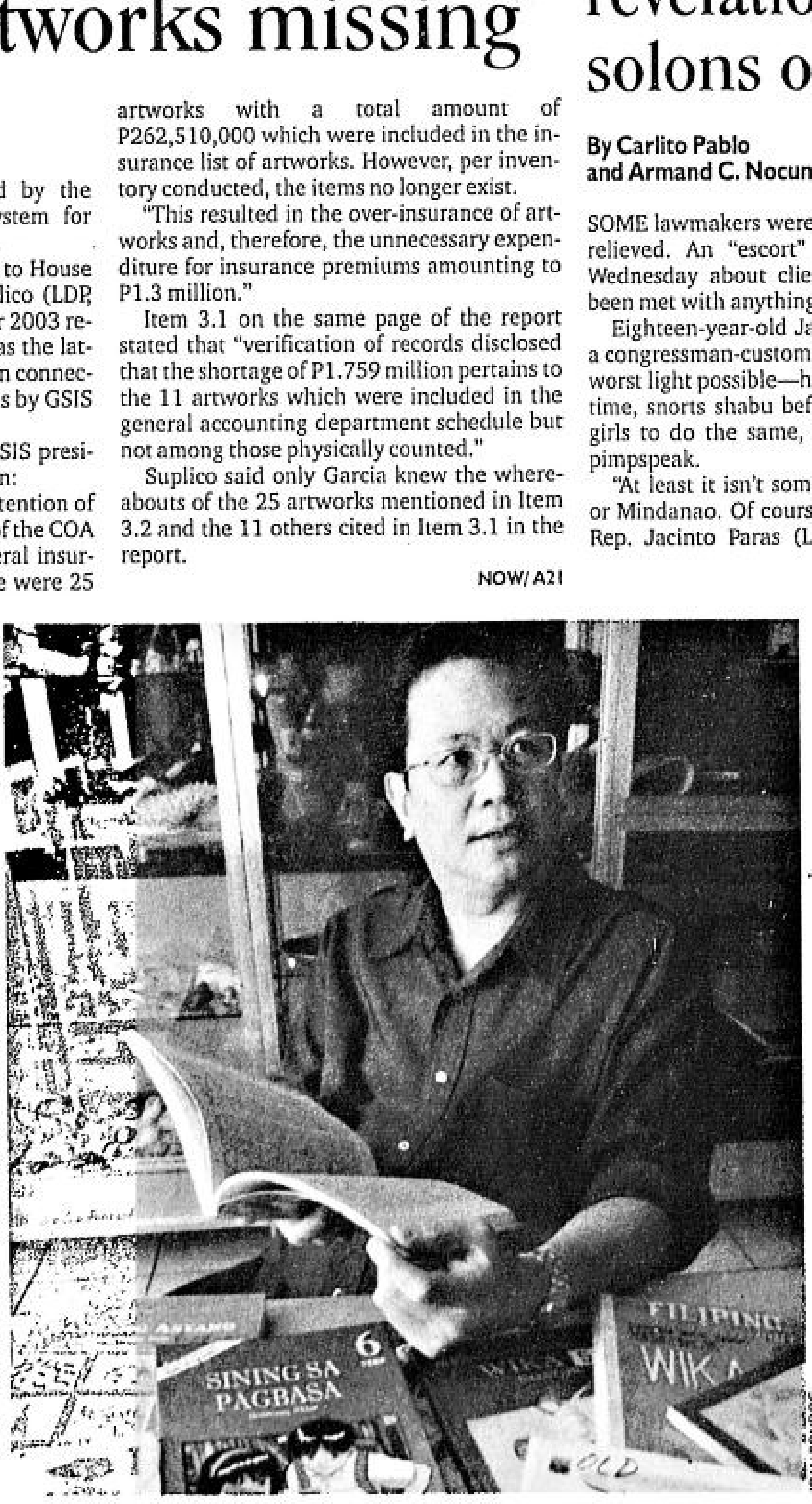
THE PHILIPPINES, which overthrew the US-backed strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, yesterday welcomed American President George W. Bush's statement that Washington was wrong to prop up foreign dictators.

A statement issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs said Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo "welcomed the candid admission" by Bush that the United States had "made the mistake of compromising with dictators."

It was a reference to Bush's UN General Assembly speech on Tuesday, which coincided with the 32nd anniversary of Marcos' imposition of martial law.

Urging international support for the US project to spread democracy in war-torn Iraq and the rest of the Middle East, Bush said: "For too long, many nations, including my own, tolerated, even excused, oppression

BUSH/ A20



JOAN BONDOC

ANTONIO Go, academic supervisor at Marian School in Novaliches, leafs through the high school textbook that he says is riddled with factual errors.

DepEd textbook riddled with 431 'factual errors'

By Dona Pazzibugan

ASIDE from "factual errors," a government-approved history textbook for high school suffers from awkward Filipino grammar, according to educator Antonio Calipjo Go.

Go is in the middle of a controversy after he claimed in a newspaper ad (INQUIRER, Sept. 20, Page 4)) that the 316-page textbook used by second year high school students, "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap," was riddled with 431 errors.

The authors, publisher and Department of Education (DepEd) officials, however, have dismissed Go's claim as baseless.

Go had questioned the textbook's assertion that Sun Yat-Sen founded the Communist Party of China, that the Chinese were fond of opium, that the Muslim prophet Mohammad went into meditation after marrying a rich wife, that warlords were people who owned land, and that many mosques were designed by Christian architects.

Other errors cited by Go included the following:

- Jews are usually segregated because of their traditions like killing Germans.
- India's untouchables cannot be touched (*hindi magalaw*).
- The sitar is a musical instrument whose strings are made from teakwood.
- The Great Wall of China is 170 miles long.

In an interview yesterday, Go stood by his findings about the textbook despite the authors' and the DepEd's denial that it contained errors.

He added: "*Masyadong baluktot ang* grammar *na hindi mo na maintindihan* (The grammar is so twisted you can't understand it)."

On Tuesday, Go showed the INQUIRER his copy of the textbook which he marked for errors—factual and grammatical.

Go, the academic supervisor of Marian School in Novaliches, Quezon City, has been on a personal crusade against error-filled textbooks for the last seven years.

But it is the first time that he spoke out against a DepEd-approved textbook that is being used both in public and private high schools.

"They will say I have a motive. I don't. I'm a concerned citizen," he said.

The textbook's lead author, Dr. Teofista

DEPED/ A20

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindano including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/24/04

Magdalo escapee surrenders

By Alcuin Papa

THE MAGDALO group officer who escaped from military detention in Makati City on Tuesday surrendered to military officials at Camp Aguinaldo last night.

Marine 2Lt. Junnibert Tubo yesterday asked the GMA-7 network at a little past 5 p.m. to help facilitate his surrender.

As of press time, Tubo had yet to appear before his superiors.

In an interview with GMA-7, Tubo said he had no intention of escaping.

"I had no intention to escape. I wanted to go home to solve some family problems. Other than that, there was no other reason," Tubo said in Filipino and English.

Tubo also disputed the claim of Marine officials that he had been caught drinking the day before he escaped.

Marine officials had said Tubo was being transferred to the maximum security compound from the minimum security area at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio for drinking when he escaped.

Tubo said he was not drinking that day. He said he had entertained visitors from Zamboanga City on Sept. 17 and they were the ones who were drinking.

Tubo was one of seven Marines being held in the minimum security compound at Marine headquarters for their role in the Oakwood mutiny of July 27, 2003, where over 300 junior officers and enlisted men took over the luxury apartment-hotel in Makati City to protest government military policies and corruption.

Philippine Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said newly designated Philippine Marines commandant Maj. Gen. Orlando Buenaventura had called for a thorough investigation of Tubo's escape.

BACK TAXES

Gov't duns banks for P14B

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE ARROYO administration is looking to collect another P14 billion in back taxes and penalties from the special savings accounts (SSA) of local and foreign banks, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The SSA taxes are on top of the P38 billion the government claims it is owed by local and foreign banks in taxes on their foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) loans since 1998.

In a briefing at Malacañang, BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the government had notified the banks that it would start collecting taxes on SSA or time deposits issued as passbook accounts instead of certificates.

"Up to now, it is still being contested in various courts whether or not certain accounts without certificates of deposit are subject to tax because banks had been able to come up with banking instruments (SSA) that do not have certificates of deposit but are covered by passbooks," Parayno said.

"It doesn't matter if there is no certificate but as long as it is an instrument of indebtedness it should be taxed," he said.

As a passbook account, the SSA is subject only to the 20 percent withholding tax on income charged the interest earnings of a normal saving accounts.

The banks have used the SSA to dodge payment of the documentary stamps tax. Thus, an SSA holder gets time deposit rates but pays taxes reserved for savings deposits.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines has contested the BIR's tax assessment on its members' SSA and FCDU loans. But BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said: "I don't think we have much choice on what the BIR wants to do."

Parayno, however, said that until the courts decide on the tax status of SSAs, the government cannot collect these taxes.

But he was optimistic the government would prevail, citing the court's decision siding with the government's position that the gross receipts tax on banks covered 100 percent of their income and not just 80 percent or the net of 20 percent withholding tax as claimed by the banks. The favorable court decision, Parayno said, added nearly P1 billion to BIR revenues last year.

Aside from the SSA, Parayno said the BIR was ready to pursue back taxes from local and foreign banks for nonpayment of the gross receipts tax (GRT), the documentary stamp tax (DST) and branch profits on their FCDU loans since their tax exemption was lifted under the Comprehensive Tax Reform Package in 1997.

Parayno said the BIR had agreed to discuss the issue with the Congressional Oversight Committee.

"We are amenable to congressional intervention, after all whatever settlement will be made will be subject to the same oversight committee," he said.

'Why indexation won't work'

THE ECONOMIC Managers' Group (EMG), the economic think-tank of Malacañang, favors the retention of the four-tier tax classification of cigarettes. This stems from EMG's belief that maintaining the present tax categories will limit debates in Congress to the tax rates and their proposed indexation to inflation.

As defined by the Department of Finance (DOF) "indexation" means tying up the rate of increase in the tax rate to the annual inflation rate as determined by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The intention is to capture additional tax revenue from upward adjustments in the prices of cigarettes and alcohol since tax rates will be periodically adjusted based on official inflation data.

Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique, a tax lawyer and lawmaker, thinks the proposed indexation will face strong opposition like it did in the 11th and 12th Congress for several reasons. These are:

- Unlike customs duties and tariff rates which the President has the power to fix "within specified limits" [Art VI, Section 28 par (2)], the power to impose taxes or waive the collection of all other taxes belongs exclusively to Congress. Allowing the indexation of taxes to inflation is tantamount to an unlawful delegation of Congress' power to tax to the executive branch. The Constitution stipulates that all appropriation, revenue or tariff bills, bills authorizing increase of the public debt, bills of local application, and private bills, shall originate exclusively in the House of Representatives.
- Given that Congress is not willing to delegate its power to tax, the fixed tax rates under the specific tax system becomes unrealistic and requires periodic adjustments by Congress which is costly and time-consuming.
- Because of this, there is a growing consensus in the House to return to the value-based ad valorem tax system versus specific tax with indexation for several reasons: a) ad valorem automatically captures tax revenues due to price increases; b) the tax burden is equitable in that all brands carry an equitable share of the tax increase unlike the present specific tax system where some brands enjoy a lighter tax burden compared to others; and c) tax collections grew at a much faster rate under ad valorem as against specific.
- Arguments against ad valorem that it is prone to abuse because of alleged "price under-declaration" by manufacturers and alleged use of marketing arms can be solved by simply making the actual retail price —as surveyed by the BIR—as the tax base. In short, the ad valorem tax will apply on the actual retail price of cigarettes as they are sold in supermarkets thus eliminating confusion in the computation and collection.

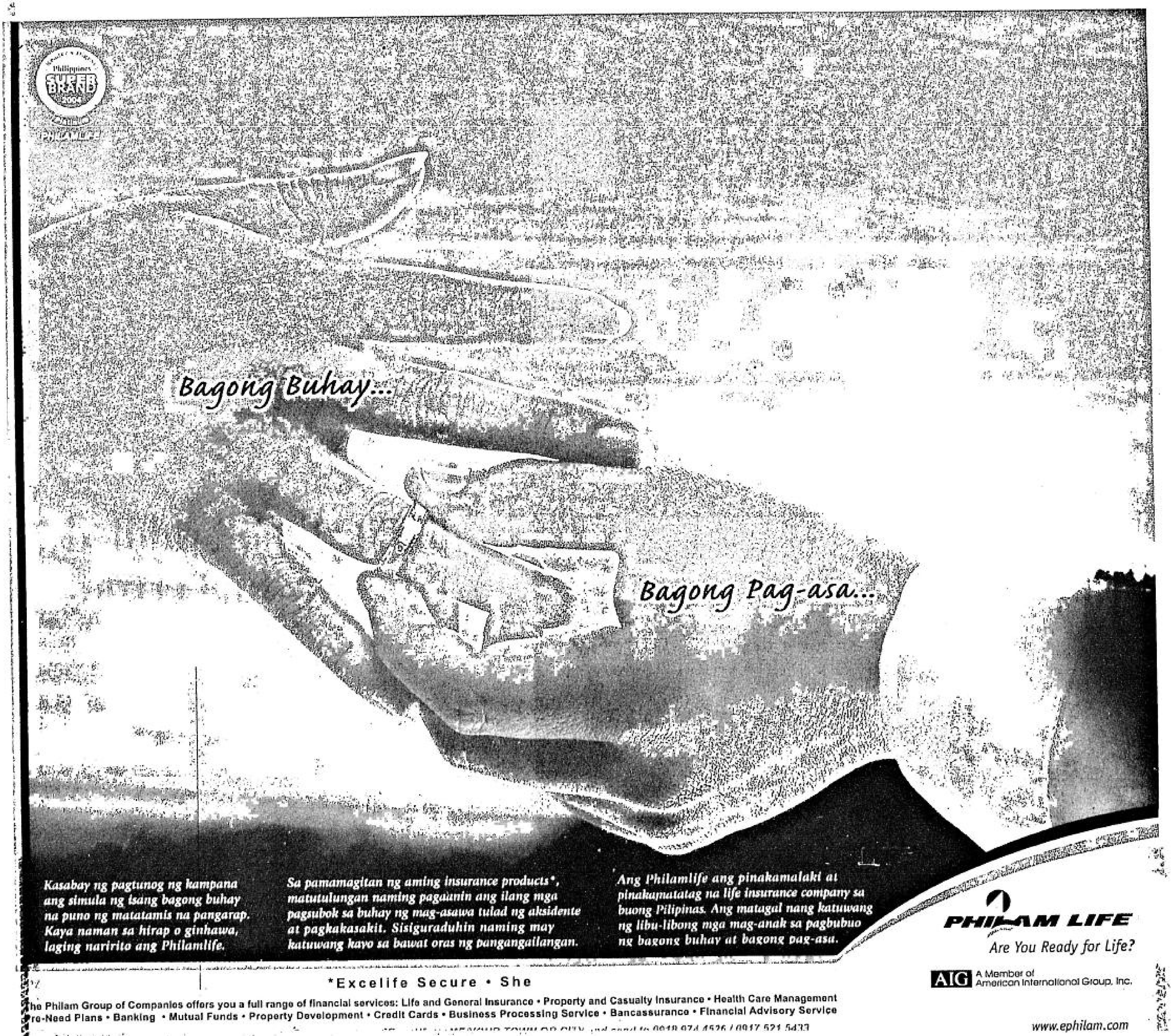
GMA vows to go after tax cheats

ASIDE from reading the riot act to highly paid officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she has started cracking the whip on notorious tax evaders and smugglers in order to plug the leaks in revenue collection.

The President said she had directed the Bureau of Internal Revenue to garnish the bank accounts of notorious tax evaders.

She has also signed an executive order giving the customs commissioner the powers of the defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau to combat smuggling, the President said in a speech at a legislative planning conference attended by members of the House of Representatives.

Forgone revenues from tax evasion amounted to P200 billion in 2000 alone, Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. told a press briefing in Malacañang. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*



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Ad valorem taxation gaining ground, says solon

By Carlito Pablo

CLAIMING evidence that the government was losing potential revenues of P5 billion from cigarette taxes under the present system, sponsors of a bill for a return to the old ad valorem taxation said the measure was gaining ground in the House.

"I believe the ad valorem system will be approved once it gets on the floor for a vote," said Rep. Danilo Suarez (LP, Quezon), who is a co-sponsor of the bill proposing a shift from the present specific system of taxation.

He said that at least 80 representatives were now ad valorem supporters.

The House ways and means committee is conducting hearings on a proposal from the government to index the excise taxes on so-called sin products—alcoholic beverages and tobacco—to inflation in order to raise government revenues.

In 1997, the country shifted from ad valorem to specific taxation of sin products when Congress passed the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

Under the ad valorem system, taxes are computed as a percentage of the value or price of a product.

Set amount per pack

In the specific system, the tax is specified on a unit of a product, that is, a set amount for each pack of cigarettes.

Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages. The shift to the specific system was made in 1997 largely to plug the loopholes in the ad valorem system under which a certain cigarette company allegedly evaded paying tens of billions of pesos in taxes by under-declaring the value of its products.

This form of tax evasion can be avoided in the specific system except that, under the latter system, the tax rate stays the same even as the price of the product rises with inflation. To prevent this, the tax can be indexed to inflation, as the government is now asking Congress to do.

Suarez argued that the ad valorem system was "market-driven with government getting higher revenues every time the prices of cigarettes go up."

Another of the bill's co-authors, Rep. Exequiel Javier (Lakas, Antique), cited Bureau of Internal Revenue data showing that excise tax collections under ad valorem grew by an average of 12.46 percent from 1989 to 1996.

The average growth of revenue collections under specific taxation from 1997 to 2003 was only 4.05 percent, said Javier, citing the same BIR data.

"The simulation shows that if we apply the 1996 ad valorem tax rates to the actual retail prices and total removals of all cigarette brands in 2003, government could have earned P5 billion more than its actual 2003 excise tax collection," he said.

Javier also defended the ad valorem system from criticisms that cigarette manufacturers can avoid paying correct taxes through price under-declaration and the use of marketing arms.

"All that the government needs to do is to conduct regular price surveys in the country's top supermarkets to determine the average actual retail price per brand," he said.

The House ways and means committee has yet to make a decision on the various proposals.

The finance department said in a statement yesterday it supported House Speaker Jose de Venecia's House Bill No. 194 proposing the indexation of sin taxes, particularly because the bill calls for the removal of the distinction between old and new brands of cigarettes.

Lifting protection

Finance Undersecretary Grace Pulido-Tan told the committee hearing on Tuesday that the De Venecia bill would lift the protection of old cigarette brands that has cost the government billions in foregone revenues.

Old brands refer to those that existed when the CTRP was passed in 1997. The bicameral conference committee at the time inserted a provision which prohibited the re-classification of the existing or old brands.

Former finance secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who sought the passage of an indexation law in 2003, estimated that the government lost P40 billion because of the failure to reclassify old cigarette brands.

Citing the consumer price indices for tobacco for 1998, 2001 and 2002, Camacho revealed that the foregone revenue from Fortune Tobacco from 1999 to 2002 was P28.069 billion; from Philip Morris, P10.172 billion; and from Sterling and Anglo, P2.511 billion.

Citing a survey by the National Tax Research Center, De Venecia said that many of the low-priced products when the law was enacted in 1996 are now selling at a much higher price and proposed that the tax rate be adjusted by 25 percent and thereafter be indexed to inflation.

The country's top two cigarette manufacturers—Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Philip Morris Phil.—are on opposite sides of the debate.

Philip Morris favors a modest tax increase which is akin to proposals by some congressmen to impose a uniform tax rate on all cigarette brands.

Reps. Marcelino Libanan (NPC, Eastern Samar) and Crispin Remulla (NP, Cavite) have filed bills providing for a P1 and P2 per pack increase, respectively, in cigarette taxes.

Fortune, owned by ethnic Chinese tycoon Lucio Tan, supports a return to ad valorem taxation without indexation of the tax rate to inflation.

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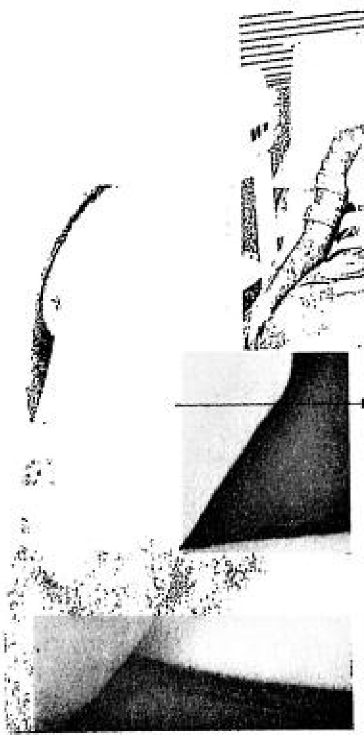

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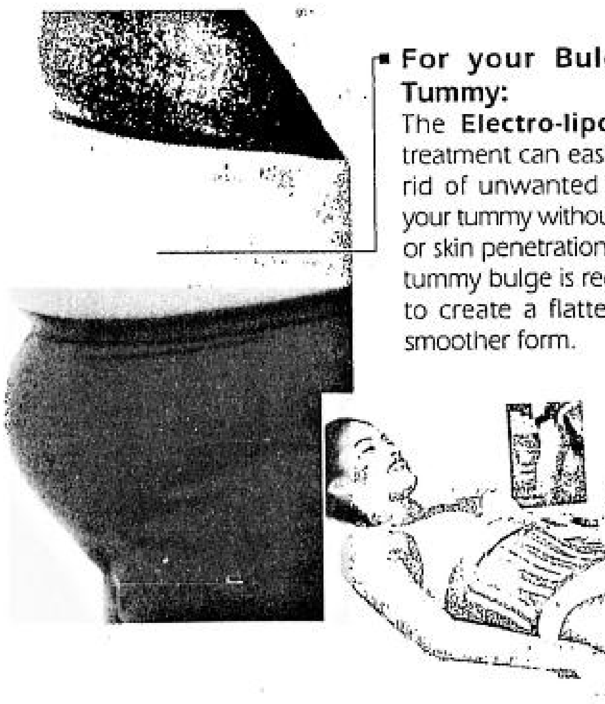

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

NEW CHAIRMAN OF PCSO
President Macapagal Arroyo swears into office Sergio O. Valencia as the new chairman of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Looking on are Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, wife Tina Revilla Valencia, mother Rosie Osmeña Valencia (daughter of the late President Sergio Osmeña), son Julio and daughter Jordana Valencia.

RP assured it is still top US ally vs terror

By TJ Burgonio

THE NEW operations chief of the United States Pacific Command has assured Philippine military officials the country "remains high" on the list of nations to be provided US assistance in the global fight against terrorism.

Maj. Gen. Gary North, newly installed USPACOM operations director, made the assurance to Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in a meeting at Camp Aguinaldo on Monday.

North, who is making the rounds of Pacific area countries, arrived in Manila Sunday on a five-day orientation visit. He is in the country for the first time since assuming his post in July, officials said.

"He said the Philippines is high on the priority list of USPACOM," Adan said in a phone interview. "That is an assurance that we're high on the list to be given assistance in the global war against terror."

North's visit came two months after Washington lashed out at Manila over the latter's withdrawal of its 51-man humanitarian contingent from Iraq in July to save the life of a Filipino truck driver who had been threatened with beheading by Iraqi militants.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said last week he saw no signs of a backlash from the US over the pullout, citing the flurry of visits by US military and defense officials to the country to boost defense cooperation.

Adan, who received North on behalf of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya who is in Beijing, said he expressed the Philippines' "appreciation" to the US command for its continuous training assistance to local military personnel.

The training programs include military-to-military antiterror exercises, intelligence fusion and public affairs training, among others.

North also visited American troops engaged in exercises with local troops in Zamboanga City on Wednesday, according to Adan.

"He came here to see what kind of training the Pacific command was giving in cooperation with the Philippine government," he said.

North was also scheduled to meet with officials of the US embassy.

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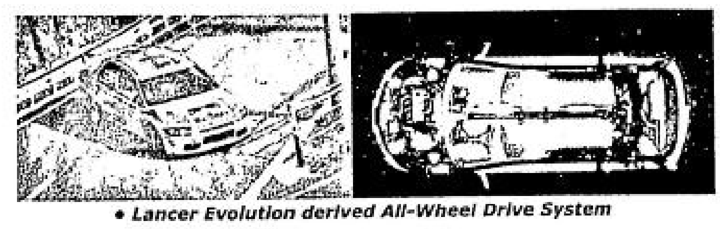

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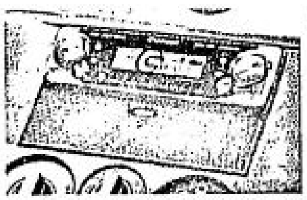

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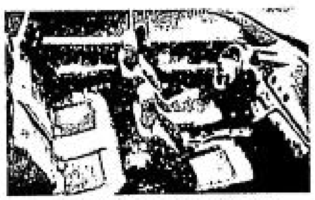

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Erap faces return to jail for building rest house museum

By Armand Nocum

OUSTED President Estrada faces being returned to jail at Camp Capinpin for violating provisions of a Sandiganbayan order allowing him to be serve out his detention at his lavish 15-hectare vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Estrada violated the provision of the anti-graft court's July 12 order allowing his rest house arrest when he ordered the construction of a museum without notifying the court.

"The court order says that Estrada was placing himself and his property under the custody of the court. As such, he should have first sought the court's permission" for the ongoing museum construction, Villa-Ignacio said.

He said the order also asks the police guarding Estrada to monitor the movements of people going in and out of the estate which is located across the road from the military camp where the disgraced leader is supposed to be detained.

Villa-Ignacio said the monitoring can no longer be done because of the large number of construction workers, heavy equipment and construction supplies going in and out of the property.

The Sandiganbayan order said that violation of the conditions of its order would mean the return of Estrada to Camp Capinpin.

Villa-Ignacio also questioned the size of the property under construction, which is said to measure 850 sq. meters.

"It is too big for a museum," he said, raising suspicions that Estrada may be adding a room or two there for his use.

Villa-Ignacio said he intends to ask Rizal provincial officials for a copy of the project's blueprint.

He said prosecutors would also file a motion next week asking the Philippine National Police and the Sandiganbayan sheriff to explain why there was construction work going on in the Estrada estate and why the court was not informed about it.

Family planning hotline clogged with sex queries

By Blanche S. Rivera

BLAME it on the INQUIRER.

The Department of Health's family planning hotline has been turned into a question and answer line on sex.

About 60 percent of the questions called in or sent through SMS (Short Message Service) are on sexuality, including concerns on penis size, masturbation, premature ejaculation, and orgasms and the inability of some women to experience it.

In a report, the DOH said that in its first two weeks between Aug. 15 and 31, the family planning (FP) hotline received an average of 1,000 SMS messages and 40 voice calls a day.

Only about 40 percent of the queries were on family planning.

"These questions (on sexuality) may have been brought about by the Philippine Daily Inquirer story that appeared on Aug. 16 [also carried by INQUIRER Libre] headlined: 'Got a question on sex? DOH hotline has the answer,'" the two-page report said.

FP hotline supervisor Yasmin Ann Pimentel said the hotline staff had received queries such as: "Are masturbation and premature ejaculation normal?" "What about erectile dysfunction?" "How often should I have sex?"

"We cannot avoid getting questions on sexuality. It's an opportunity for us to promote family planning, both natural and modern methods," Pimentel said in a phone interview yesterday.

The hotline has not been spared from sleazy callers and curious youth asking about dating and crushes. More than half of the callers were male, Pimentel said.

One caller asked if it was okay to have sex with a co-worker who was married, while another sought advice on how to tell her crush that she liked him.

"Those who have questions on relationships we refer to other hotlines like dial-a-friend. These are mostly teenagers who are curious about the hotline," Pimentel said.

The FP hotline is a joint project of the DOH, Commission on Population, Academy of Educational Development of the Social Acceptance Project on Family Planning, Friendly Care Foundation and Well Family Midwife Clinic.

The government promotes natural family planning methods, while the private agencies espouse the use of condoms and other contraceptives.

The FP hotline is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday to Saturday. There are four trained agents, including a nurse and a midwife, who answer the calls.

The hotline numbers are 522-0176 and 0917-832-6756. It also entertains questions sent through email at famplan@pldtdsl.net.

Safety of Pinoys in Iraq worries RP special envoy

AMBASSADOR Roy Cimatu has advised the staff of the Philippine embassy in Baghdad to restrict their movements in the capital in view of the "accelerated bombings and hostilities" in the war-torn state.

The special envoy to the Middle East also hinted that the government would keep the ban on workers' deployment in view of the stepped-up attacks, which are affecting the safety of some 4,400 Filipino workers inside two US military camps.

Cimatu said that the government was "worried" over the safety of the Filipinos working inside Camps Anaconda and Victory as well as the embassy staff in the wake of the bombings, attacks and kidnappings which were becoming "brazen" each day.

"A lot of casualties happened for the past seven days alone, and this worries us. We are worried about the situation of the Filipinos in Iraq, not only those who are working inside the US bases, but some Filipinos outside the bases, like embassy personnel," he said in a briefing.

"They should only make minimal movement outside the embassy and at official functions. They should not make unnecessary exposure," he added.

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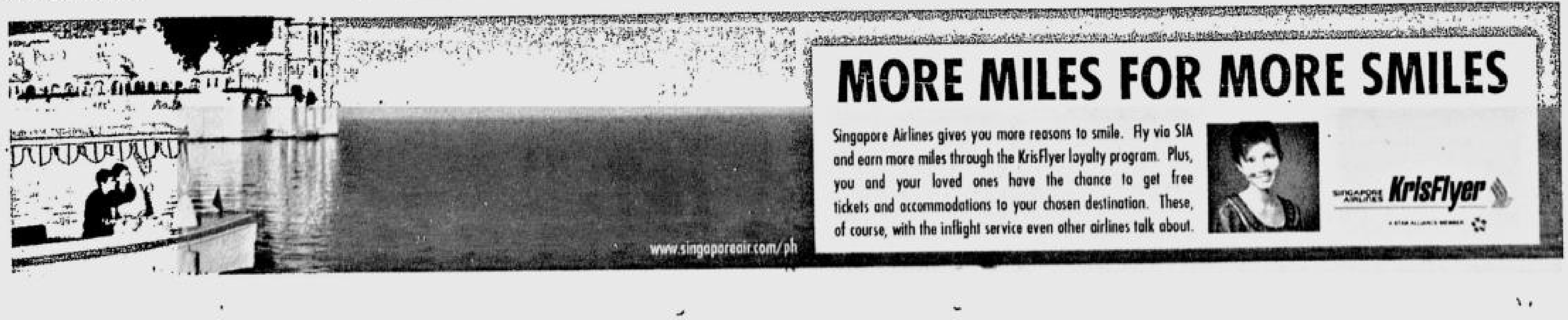

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Comelec commissioner denies rigging in poll automation deal

ELECTION Commissioner Resurreccion Borra has denied claims that the bidding for the aborted P1.3 billion election automation contract was rigged to favor the winning bidder.

Borra said the allegation was highly irresponsible, claiming that the adoption of the "pass/fail" method in determining the qualifications of prospective bidders was in compliance with the Government Procurement Act (RA 9184).

"It was in compliance with this express provision of law that the Comelec adopted the pass/fail method for assessing the qualifications of both the machines and the bidders," Borra said in a sworn statement submitted Monday to the Senate blue ribbon committee which is investigating allegations that the Comelec contracted overpriced automated counting machines (ACMs).

"To insinuate impropriety in the Comelec's use of the statutorily prescribed procedure is highly irresponsible," he said.

At last week's hearing of the blue ribbon committee, two witnesses, Maricar Akol and Manuel Alcuaz, claimed that the adoption of the pass/fail method and the requirement that each automated counting machine (ACM) being offered must have been previously and successfully used in a political exercise involving at least 20 million voters, served to disqualify several parties and favor the winning bidder.

Akol is a member of the Comelec advisory council on the Election Modernization Program. Borra claimed during the previous blue ribbon committee hearing that she had been identified with the losing bidder. She and Alcuaz were among the petitioners who sought to nullify the awarding of contract before the Supreme Court.

"It cannot be said that the Comelec was blind to the possibility of the pass/fail system being abused," Borra averred.

"It was precisely to avoid the evils of unduly biased technical specifications that the Comelec took great pains to solicit the input of as large a group of private individuals of known integrity and professional competence as possible—instead of just a handful consultants—in drafting the bidding terms of reference," he added.

The Comelec commissioner added that with the help of the private sector in the formulation of the bidding terms of reference, the poll body was able to define what was needed in the election modernization program and avoided being taken advantage by suppliers aware of Comelec's lack of in-depth knowledge of the latest technological advances.

Although Borra admitted that the 20-million voter requirement was harsh, he said that what is eminently arguable is whether or not it was unduly harsh.

Bishops want more Masses

By Blanche S. Rivera

EVEN in religious activities such as Mass, there is a shortage.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines leadership was urged yesterday to seek the approval of the Vatican in conducting more Eucharistic celebrations to accommodate the number of Mass-goers.

At least 80 percent of Filipino are Catholic, giving the clergy in the Philippines huge influence even over political affairs.

"In consideration of the very large number of faithful and their great desire for the celebration of the Eucharist, we urge the local bishops to request the Apostolic See… to extend the limits to the frequency of Masses on weekdays and Sundays and pluri-intentional Masses," the CBCB Commission on Liturgy said in a statement.

The commission also recommended the adoption of the Order of the Sunday Assembly in the Absence of the Priest, approved by the CBCP three years ago. This should encourage greater involvement among the lay, according to the CBCP-ECL.

The recommendation to have more Masses and Sunday assembly without a priest were part of an eight-point agenda submitted by the CBCP-ECL to the bishops.

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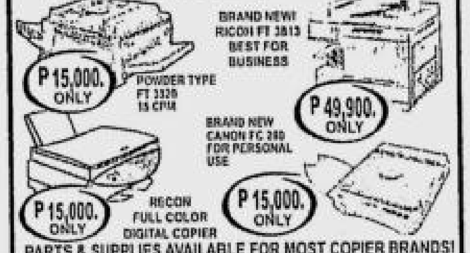
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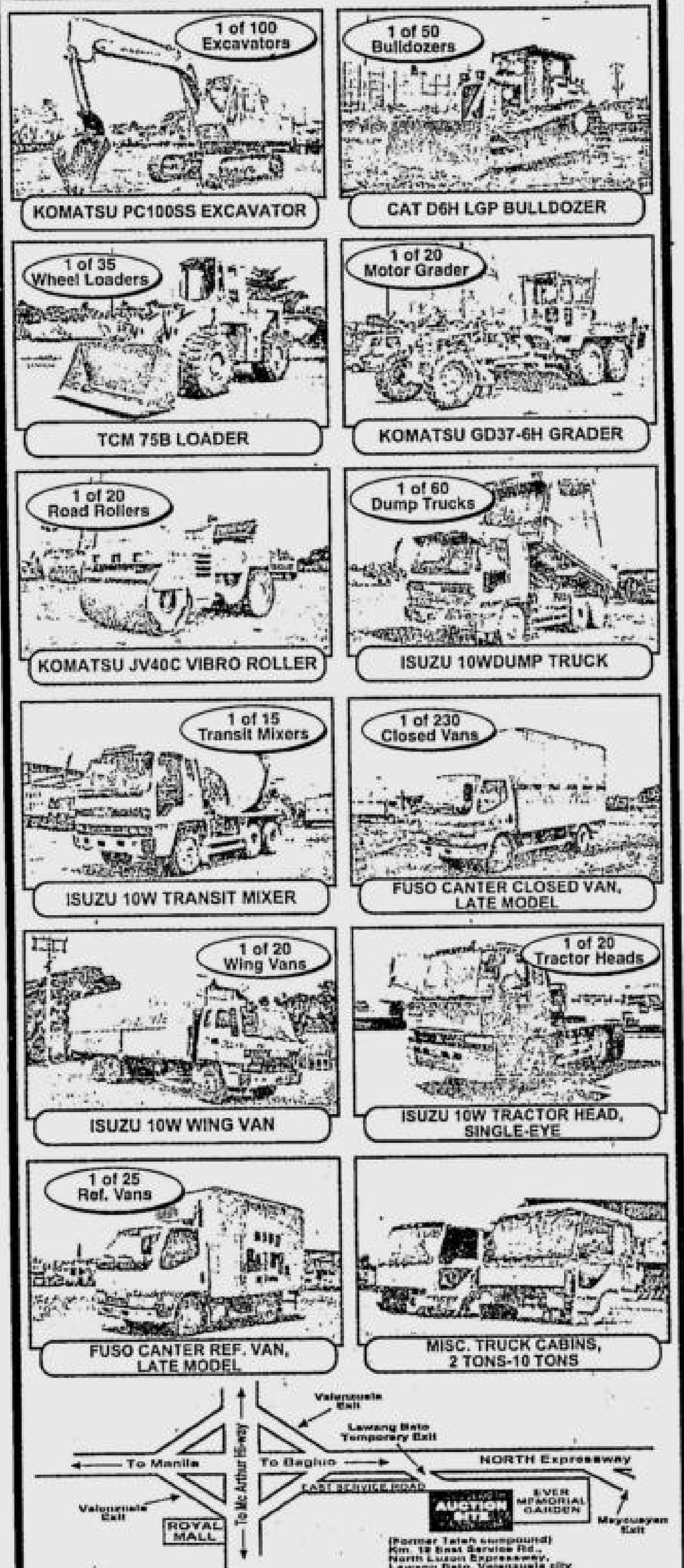
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2 Malaysians to testify vs Abu suspects on Sipadan

TWO Malaysians are scheduled to testify today against the Abu Sayyaf bandits who kidnapped them from a resort in Sabah, Malaysia in April 2000, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Diving instructor Fong Yin Ken, alias Ken Fong, and policeman Abdul Jawad Sulawat will testify against the bandits before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court for their kidnapping and that of 19 other tourists from the Sipadan Island resort in Sabah, Gonzalez said.

The two former hostages made a courtesy call to Gonzalez at the DOJ and were presented to the media.

"Pursuant to our regional cooperation against terrorism with the Malaysian government, the witnesses are in the country to testify against their terrorist abductors," Gonzalez said.

He said that, so far, only Roland Ulla has taken the stand against the 27 Abu Sayyaf bandits held at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

Ulla, a Filipino cook at the resort, was also taken hostage when the bandits raided Sipadan on April 23, 2000 and kidnapped tourists from France, Finland, Germany, Lebanon, South Africa, Malaysia and the Philippines.

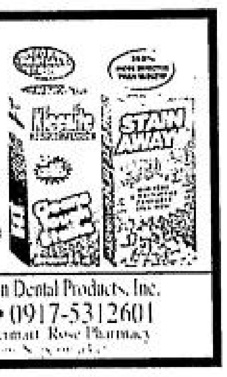
The hostages were kept captive in Jolo, Sulu, while ransom negotiations proceeded.

Gonzalez said the two were released on different dates only after ransom was paid.

"These and other antiterrorism cases are viewed not only by our countrymen but also by the international community as a gauge of our government's ability and resolve to stamp out terrorism and foster respect for the rule of law in our country," Gonzalez said.

"The testimonies of Ken Fong and Abdul Jawad Sulawat are important because they would confirm the (bandits') commission of the crime charged and reinforce evidence against the accused terrorist," he added.

Fong and Sulawat were accompanied by Mohammad Bakri Mohammad Zinin, Senior Assistant Commissioner II, and Goh Lee Fok of the Royal Malaysian Police.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Winning consumer praise is twice as sweet!

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2003

The people have spoken and their choice is clear: Columbia International Food Products Inc. has been given the NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE AWARD for being the No. 1 Candy Maker and the 2004 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD for Top Confectionery Manufacturer.

Miss Elvira Y. Go, Columbia International Food Products Incorporated's Marketing representative, receives the National Shoppers' Choice Award at the Dusit Nikko Hotel

Established in 1937 as a retailer of sweets, Columbia International Food Products, Inc. has since grown into a world-class candy manufacturer and developed into one of the biggest in the country under the able stewardship of Mr. Reynaldo Go. Following his initiatives, the company has experienced a progressive shift in its operations. His passion for innovation is evident in the extensive product research and development efforts that Columbia adheres to. The latest example of this advanced thinking is the 3-in-1 CHARAP, a premium chocolate-topped butter cookie with a creamy caramel center-fill. Major investments in advanced production and packaging machinery have also been implemented to meet the growing demands and evolving tastes of the local market.

Columbia's focused marketing has helped in the development of unique sweets that have become the Pinoy's instant favorites. POTCHI Gummi Kendi and FRUTOS are soft, chewy, fruity treats that kids always look for. V-FRESH, V-FRUIT, and iCOOL rule the chewing gum and bubble gum category. CHAMPI soft choco candy is a big seller. The delicious flavors of MON'AMI stand out in the hard candy market. FROOTY POPS has become a staple at kiddie parties. On the other hand,

At the AFP Theater, Miss Elvira Y Go accepted the 2004 National Consumers Quality and People's Choice Award in behalf of the country's premier confectioner.

Columbia's efforts in the cookie snack category have resulted in the delicious KOOKY with delicious filling and the special 3-in-1 CHARAP. These innovative products clearly demonstrate the pioneering nature of Columbia. By developing trend-setting quality creations, this 100% Filipino company strives to strengthen its commitment to their partner-distributors and to lift Filipino standards to global levels. Today, Columbia is known as a company with a product line-up that has won the trust and respect of consumers nationwide. With these national awards, Columbia reaffirms its commitment to world-class confectionery quality.

Potchi
VFruit
VFresh
Charap
Kooky
Frutos

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nothing could give us greater pleasure than to receive recognition from the very people we serve!

Columbia International Food Products, Inc. has worked very hard for the past 67 years to deliver the kind of quality confectionery that creates sweet moments and brings back fond memories of younger times.

Columbia puts a substantial amount of effort on intensive research and development, meticulously creating new products of world-class quality at affordable prices. It is this innovative spirit that has pushed us to expand and upgrade our production plant every year.

We are continuously working hard to achieve the quality you have come to expect from Columbia and to anticipate your confectionery needs. So we can proudly say 'Gawang Pinoy, Atin 'Yan.'

From the sweetest candy, the softest Gummi jelly treat, to the most exquisite, center-filled confection we create, you can taste the kind of dedication to excellence and flavor that Columbia has strived for.

In appreciation of your recognition, we pledge to raise our level of quality even higher.

In behalf of the whole Columbia family, we offer our heartfelt thanks and warmest gratitude!

MR. REYNALDO Y. GO
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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

No need for new law to sell Napocor assets–Gonzalez

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said there was no need for a new law to facilitate the sale of the transmission assets of the National Power Corp. in response to Malacañang's request for a legal opinion on the issue.

Gonzalez, however, said the justice secretary's opinion was not required on a related issue—whether the transmission assets should be privatized through a negotiated sale.

Gonzalez said the sale of the Napocor's transmission assets, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), was already sufficiently covered by Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

"There is no more need since the principle is already imbedded in the law. The law is self-executing," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo late last month asked the DOJ to render an opinion on whether a new law is needed for Transco's sale.

The President sought a legal opinion from the DOJ after several legislators said that there was no need for a new law since the transfer of Napocor's transmission assets was already clearly defined under the Epira law.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile cited Section 8 of the Epira , which states that "within six months from (the law's) effectivity ... the transmission and sub-transmission facilities franchise of the (Napocor) for the operation of the transmission system and the grid, shall be transferred to the Transco."

"If Enrile's stand is correct, this already serves as authority for Transco to offer its facilities to interested private concessionaires without further need to seek congressional approval," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement on Aug. 29.

In another legal opinion, Gonzalez kept his hands off the issue of whether Transco can be privatized through a negotiated sale.

Gonzalez said the justice secretary's opinion was required only in negotiated sales in the "procurement" of government infrastructure projects, goods and services, and not in "the sale, and disposition, and transfer" of government assets, under the provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Approval needed

But he said the Department of Energy should get the approval of the President and the Joint Congressional Power Commission before proceeding with a negotiated sale of Transco, as required by the Epira law.

The energy department is considering selling Transco through a negotiated sale for Transco after two public biddings in January and August 2003 failed.

However, Bunye said that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the agency overseeing the privatization of the Napocor assets, is already reviewing the bids of five companies that are interested in purchasing the transmission assets.

According to Bunye, five world-class power companies signified their intention to join the bidding shortly after the May elections. He said this was a clear sign that investor confidence in the Philippines has improved.

Under the concession offered by the government, the winning bidder gets to operate the transmission grids for 25 years, which can be extended by another 25 years depending on performance.

Privatization

The privatization is expected to raise $2 billion to $5 billion for the government by the end of 2005.

The President has said that the privatization of Transco's assets would upgrade the transmission system and attract more investors while providing electricity to over 4,000 barangays without electricity service across the country.

An estimated P2.5 billion is needed over the next 10 years to strengthen the transmission grid and provide electricity for these barangays.

Ms Arroyo said that the privatization of Transco's transmission assets would pave the way for the setting up of a P1 billion fund for a wholesale electricity spot market where buyers of electricity can choose from various suppliers of power.

This is expected to result in more competitive pricing among independent power producers and allow power distributors like the Manila Electric Co. and power coöperatives to select the IPPs that offer the lowest prices.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 24, 2004
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ecl 3:1-11
Gospel: Lk 9:18-22

One day when Jesus was praying alone, not far from his disciples, he asked them, "What do people say about me?" And they answered, "Some say that you are John the Baptist; others say that you are Elijah, and still others that you are one of the former prophets risen from the dead." Again Jesus asked them, "Who then do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." Then Jesus spoke to them, giving them strict orders not to tell this to anyone.

And he added, "The Son of Man must suffer many things. He will be rejected by the elders and chief priests and teachers of the Law, and put to death. Then after three days he will be raised to life."

Commentary

At one end of the scale, people in numbers can be a community; at the other end they can be a mob. In both cases there's a certain unity of purpose, even if in the latter case it's a destructive one. But the whole space between these extremes is the space of the crowd. There's no telling what they think.

"What do people say about me?" Jesus asked. People say everything! It was scarcely necessary to ask. They gave the usual list of false identities-the same as in yesterday's reading. They had met him, they had been miraculously fed by him (as recounted in the verses just before today's reading); yet they had no idea who he was. Nor did that worry them. No doubt they appreciated the food. But one day, not far in the future, they would turn into a vicious mob shouting, "Crucify him!"

He seemed to have a presentiment of this. "The Son of Man must suffer many things." Jesus would never be popular. He lost to Barabbas. I always feel uncomfortable when I hear people reciting Church statistics-percentages and numbers. What's a statistic? Does it exist in the singular? When you figure in statistics are you one of a community, or of a crowd, or a mob? Any calculation that fails to distinguish between these can't be very useful for anything.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Voluntary surrender—The appellant, likewise, alleged that he voluntarily surrendered to the police authorities. For voluntary surrender to be appreciated, the following requisites should be present: (1) the offender has not been actually arrested; (2) the offender surrendered himself to a person in authority or the latter's agent; and (3) the surrender was voluntary. The surrender must be spontaneous, made in such a manner that it shows the interest of the accused to surrender unconditionally to the authorities, either because he acknowledged his guilt or he wishes to save them the trouble and expenses that would necessarily be incurred in the search and capture. In the case at bar, SPO4 Cortez testified that the appellant did not voluntarily surrender but was brought by the police officers to the police station. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, People vs Marcelo, G. R. No. 140385, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

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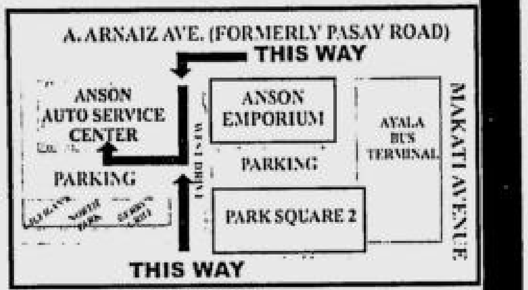

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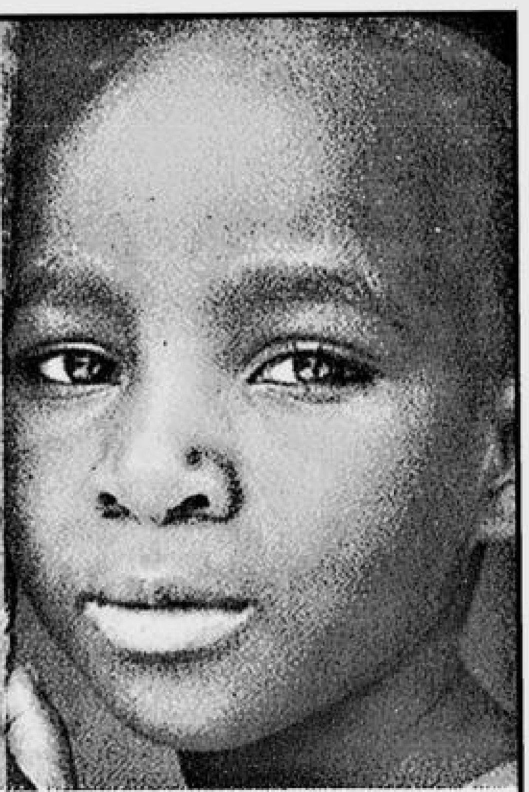

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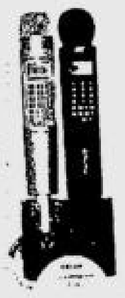

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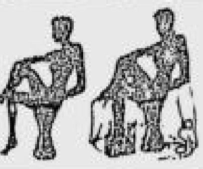

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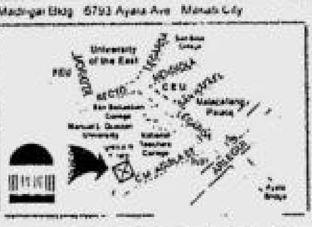

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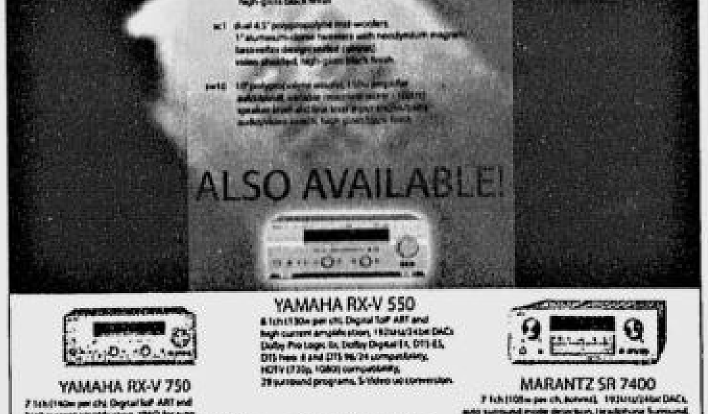

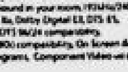

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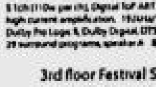

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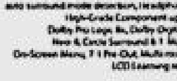

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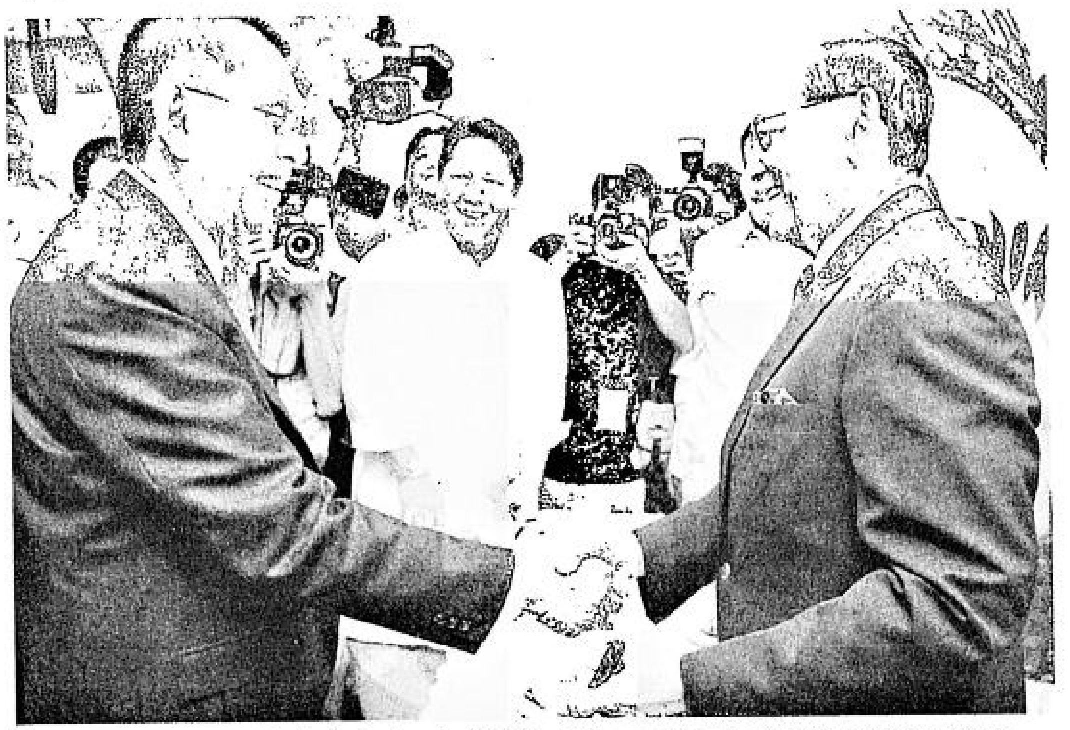
Miriam walks out on FVR at Senate hearing

HMMM. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada strikes a thoughtful pose at the Senate inquiry on the Smokey Mountain reclamation project. JESS YUSON

HI. Sen. Pia Cayetano greets the man in the hot seat, ex-President Fidel Ramos. (Robert Aventajado, left, then President Joseph Estrada's adviser and negotiator with the Abu Sayyaf, is all but effusive.) JESS YUSON



HELLO. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile shakes hands with fellow Edsa player Ramos. (That's peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III beaming.) JESS YUSON

From page A1

my comments," Santiago said in a phone interview, on why she decided to walk out. "I do not want to provoke an incident."

Useless witness

She said Ramos was a "useless witness."

At the first hearing called by blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo, Ramos said that all his actions on the reclamation project stemmed from an order of President Aquino in 1992 and from advice he had taken from his officials who included now Senate President Franklin Drilon.

He said this was the basis for the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project, which he approved in 1993 and is now the subject of a Senate investigation.

Noble project

In his opening statement, Ramos said the reclamation project was a "noble project" that was set into motion and pursued by his administration and those of Corazon Aquino, Joseph Estrada and now President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said that in 1992, President Aquino issued Memorandum Order No. 415 directing the National Housing Authority (NHA) to implement the project that aimed to provide low-cost housing for Smokey Mountain residents through a joint venture scheme.

He said that because the government had no budget allocation for the project, an "enabling component" was included in which the developer would be paid with reclaimed land.

"The concept of using reclaimed land as compensation for the private developer is not new," he said.

Ramos said the joint venture agreement signed between the NHA and R-II Builders on March 9, 1993, had been reviewed and approved by his then presidential chief legal counsel Antonio Carpio, now an associate justice in the Supreme Court.

Ramos said Carpio confirmed that the NHA was authorized to undertake housing development and resettlement projects through joint ventures with private entities. He also confirmed the "feasibility of the enabling component" that allowed the increase of the reclamation area from 40 hectares to 79 hectares.

Drilon, Carpio opinion

It was Drilon, Ramos' justice secretary, who had issued two opinions "on certain aspects of the (project) which necessitated prior review of the joint venture agreement and its amendments," the former President said.

"Certainly, he would have raised objections and called the attention of the concerned parties if there was anything illegal or irregular then," Ramos said.

Ramos said it was not true that the government bailed out R-II Builders because a Smokey Mountain asset pool was set up. The pool of assets managed by a trustee secured the participation certificates issued to interested investors.

Through this scheme, about P2.7 billion, and not P3.1 billion, was raised from the sale of the Smokey Mountain project participation certificates, which went to the Philippine National Bank, the former President said.

Legal basis

Enrile asked Ramos who had authorized the increase in area to be reclaimed, from the original 40 hectares to 77 hectares. He also asked the legal basis for this.

Enrile reminded Ramos that under the Constitution, only Congress was authorized to dispose of reclaimed areas.

Ramos admitted that he authorized the reclamation of the additional area. "But let me say that all of these actions of the Ramos administration flowed from the original Memorandum Order No. 415 of President Aquino which was promulgated under her own signature."

Enrile then told Ramos that he was not blaming him for this because it was possible that this might have been an "oversight of your people."

"That they did not make a real honest-to-goodness study to find out whether there is really an enabling law to authorize Malacañang to issue the proclamations to reclaim additional areas," Enrile said.

To which Ramos replied: "I relied as president on the legal opinion of the secretary of justice and the chief legal counsel."

He included the opinion of Drilon and Carpio on the matter in documents that he submitted to the Senate committee.

Ramos told reporters later that he was not passing the buck and that he just wanted to give credit where it was due for the project that aimed to provide homes for the scavengers in the area.

Symbol of poverty

Smokey Mountain, symbol of poverty during the Marcos regime, got its name from the smoldering garbage dump in Tondo where scavengers lived and collected scraps for a living.

It was leveled and converted into a residential and commercial site during the Ramos administration.

On Aug. 5, lawyer Francisco Chavez asked the Supreme Court to void the joint venture agreement between the NHA and businessman Reghis Romero's R-II Builders Inc. because it allowed a private corporation to reclaim and own at least 79 hectares of foreshore and submerged lands near the former dump.

Chavez said the agreement was illegal because the Supreme Court had ruled in its decision on the Public Estates Authority-Amari scandal that lands in the public domain could not be acquired by private corporations.

During the hearing, Santiago told Ramos that he had not answered the question of why there was an authorized release of P3.1 billion in favor of R-II Builders.

"I just answered that," Ramos told Santiago, referring to his statement that only P2.1 billion was raised by the Smokey Mountain asset pool.

"That's what you think," Santiago shot back. This prompted Ramos to tell her that he was "entitled to my opinion."

Also at the hearing, Ramos ruffled the feathers of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who took exception to his statement that the Estrada administration failed to complete the Smokey Mountain project.

"Why are you blaming the Estrada administration?" the senator asked Ramos.

Ramos said that President Joseph Estrada failed to finish the Smokey Mountain project during his short tenure and that the garbage problem became worse because garbage was allowed to be dumped again on Smokey Mountain.

"It's command responsibility," Ramos said.

A history of bad blood

THE BAD blood between Fidel V. Ramos and Miriam Defensor Santiago has a 12-year history.

Santiago lost to Ramos in the 1992 presidential election by more than 800,000 votes. She then accused Ramos of cheating and engaging in massive fraud before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. At one point, she challenged him to a fist fight. He declined.

The tribunal dismissed in 1996 Santiago's complaint on a technicality. Santiago soon became one of Ramos' bitterest critics.

Then last April, the two shook hands, knelt together in front of the altar at the San Agustin Church, and "buried" their bitter political feud. After this, Santiago ran for senator under the administration party.

But the "ceasefire" was scuttled in August when Santiago held Ramos liable for the "unconstitutional, invalid, illegal and criminal" Smokey Mountain contract in her "Anak ng Amari" privilege speech. Ramos responded by saying that Santiago had served as Public Estates Authority director from 1991 to 1998, and had approved the reclamation of thousands of hectares in Manila Bay "where parts of the reclaimed land were conveyed to developers as payment."

An incensed Santiago denounced Ramos for implying her involvement in the scam.

PDI Research

Ceasefire monitors to visit MILF camp in Mindanao

From page A1

which straddles Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

The MILF, which signed a ceasefire with Manila 14 months ago to pave the way for the resumption of formal peace talks, has denied any ties with JI, which has been blamed for the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, and other terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia.

The visit to Mount Cararao will be made "at a date after the Ramadan to be agreed upon later on," the joint ceasefire committee said in a statement issued at the end of its two-day meeting in General Santos City.

Muslims all over the world will observe the fasting month of Ramadan between Oct. 16 and Nov. 13.

Earlier Thursday, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer rejected an MILF invitation for Canberra to send monitors to rebel camps and verify reports the separatists have been sheltering JI militants.

"We're giving them the opportunity to see the actual situation," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said. "They have the capability to detect such terror training, but they will find nothing."

Even so, Downer said he did not think the MILF offer was genuine and that taking it up was unlikely to be helpful.

"It's hardly likely to be fruitful because they will show us what they want to show us," Downer told reporters in the northern Australian city of Darwin.

"I think we will depend much more on the reliable sources we have about what's happening in these camps when we are not actually around there," he added.

Downer repeated claims that JI operatives, which have also been blamed for the bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta earlier this month, had trained at MILF bases in Mindanao.

"That is a matter of great concern to us and it is a matter of great concern to the Philippines, Indonesian and Malaysian governments and of course the Americans as well, and we are working on this," he said.

JI's goal is to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state in Southeast Asia, encompassing Indonesia, Malaysia, southern Thailand, and southern Philippines.

'An old story'

In a separate statement on Thursday, however, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye expressed confidence that the MILF had cut all ties to JI as part of the peace negotiations.

Bunye also dismissed news reports that the MILF was still allowing JI members to train in its camps, calling them "an old story."

"The government is on top of the terrorist threat and we are confident in the commitment of the MILF leadership to help in the antiterrorism campaign," he said.

According to a secret government report shown to The Associated Press, the MILF have hosted terror training camps for JI and other militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia for at least seven years.

At least 19 JI members finished their training in January, according to a copy of the government security assessment report obtained by AP. Local agencies involved in counterterrorism were also provided copies of the 14-page report.

Suspected Indonesian and Filipino operatives of JI have been arrested in the country, leading to the discovery of bank accounts and business fronts believed used to funnel funds intended for attacks.

The 14-page report said JI's founder, the late Abdullah Sungkar, and MILF chair Salamat Hashim, who died last year, agreed in 1995 to set up a training base inside Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao. Terror training reportedly started in 1997-98.

The JI training base was reportedly set up near three other camps used separately to train militants from Indonesia.

Cararao camp

After the MILF's Camp Abubakar fell during a July 2000 military offensive, JI instructors and trainees reportedly set up a new camp on Mount Cararao.

The report did not say how many JI recruits trained in Mindanao, but it said one "cadetship" program trained 51 people in all, with the latest group of 19 finishing in January.

The trainees included an Indonesian identified as Zulkipli, who became the head of the JI's Philippine cell, according to the report. Zulkipli was arrested in Malaysia last year.

The MILF has allowed other militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia—including Laskar Jundulah, Darul Islam and Kumpulan Militan Malaysia—to train in its Mindanao camps, the report said.

It also said Al-Qaida members had visited at MILF camps, but didn't say when. *With reports by AFP and AP*

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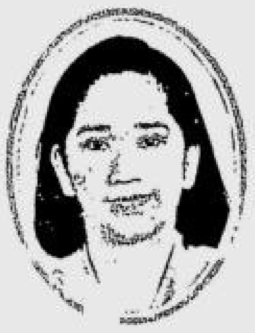

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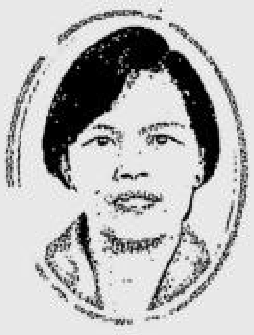

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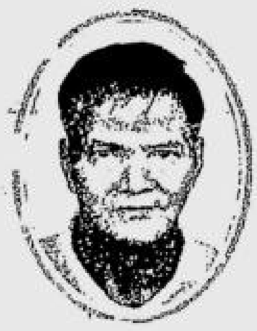

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For your ceaseless striving as private citizen and renowned lawyer to channel the passions and energies of our people into the building of a Philippines that is just, progressive and prosperous;

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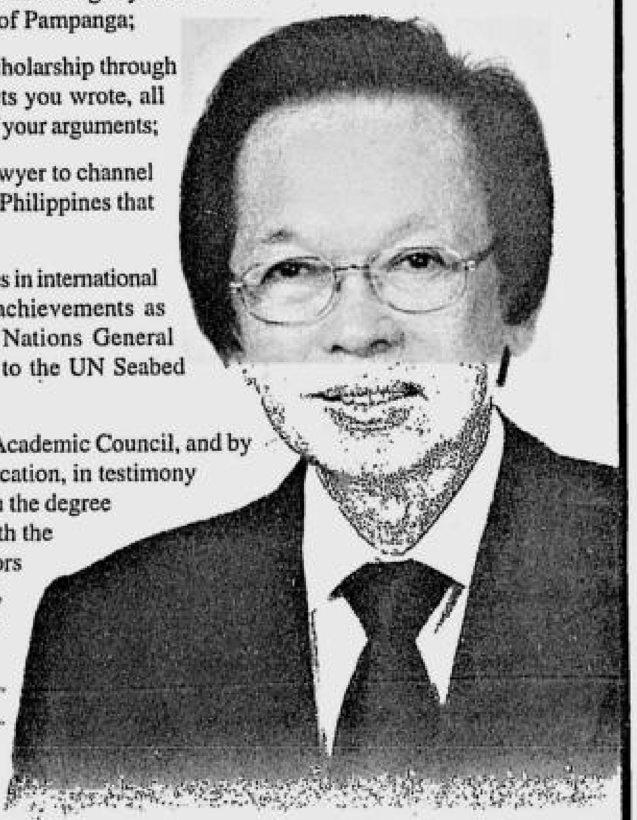

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Sept. 22 / Wednesday

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MOTORCADE	> 9 a.m., Caloocan Campus
START OF OPEN HOUSE	> 10 a.m., Caloocan Campus
OPENING OF EXHIBITS	> 11 a.m., Dalupan Lobby
FIELD DEMONSTRATION	> 2 p.m., SFC Quadrangle
"UE POP IDOL" SEARCH GRAND FINALS	> 4 p.m., University Theater
VARIETY SHOW	> 4 p.m., UE Caloocan Stage

Contests and seminars

Sept. 23 / Thursday

FIELD DEMONSTRATION	> 9 a.m., Field
OPENING OF EXHIBITS	> 11 a.m., Tan Yan Kee Academic Building
TAGISAN NG TALINO	> 1 p.m., University Theater
PALARO	> 1 p.m., Field
UE FAMILY DAY	> 1 p.m., Tan Yan Kee Academic Building
CULTURAL SHOW	> 6 p.m., Field

Sept. 24 / Friday

SERVICE AWARDS	> 9:30 a.m., Conference Hall
SPEECH CONTEST AND DRAMAFEST	> 9:30 a.m., Multipurpose Hall 1
DOCTOR OF LAWS, *HONORIS CAUSA* CONFERMENT: THE HON. ESTELITO P. MENDOZA	> 4 p.m., Conference Hall
CAMPUS DANCING	> 5 p.m., Tan Yan Kee Academic Bldg., and 6 p.m., Dalupan Lobby

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Escort girl's ...

From page A1

Quickly shifting gears, he added: "I was confident, anyway, that I was not [going to be named]. I've got some class, you know."

So would House members from Mindanao now rest easy over the escort service controversy? Rep. Robert Ace Barbers' (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) swift reaction was a hearty laugh. And then he turned serious. "Whether that congressman is from Luzon or the Visayas or Mindanao, it's the [dignity of the] entire House as an institution that is at stake here."

Rep. Gilbert Remulla (NP, Cavite) noted that Roque's story made all congressmen from Luzon suspect. "I hope [she] eventually makes a specific identification," Remulla said.

House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) agreed. He called for the immediate disclosure of the congressman's name, so that "proper action" could be taken. Otherwise, he said, the accusers could "destroy" the whole chamber.

Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) added that a disclosure would give all those implicated a chance to defend themselves.

Roque also told Wednesday's Senate hearing that a senator would have been among her clients, too, had she not backed out at the last moment. Even so, she said, two other girls had quickly taken her place.

Aside from the lawmakers on her list, she claimed, regular clients of escort services included "other congressmen, police generals, and mayors."

Before Roque came out, it was starlet Keanna Reeves who whipped up a storm by claiming that she had "serviced" a congressman, whom she did not name either. On Wednesday, Reeves retracted her previous statement.

Barbers pointed out that Roque's tale was "a serious matter" because of the drug use factor. "That's conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker," he said.

In a joint statement, Representatives Antonio Cuenco (Lakas, Cebu City) and Marcelino Libanan (NPC, Eastern Samar) said the House could not afford such a scandal, especially since it involved both sexual impropriety and drug abuse.

Cuenco likewise called for "the proper identification, not only of the congressman but also of the senator concerned," to remove the suspicion that had been "cast on every lawmaker."

This, Libanan agreed, would only be fair "to House members who were never involved in any sex scandal or drug use."

And then what?

The Office of the Ombudsman yesterday admitted it had no authority over lawmakers misbehaving in this way.

Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos explained: Republic Act No. 6770, the Ombudsman Act of 1989, is clear on the fact that the antigraft office has no jurisdiction over administrative complaints involving members of House of Representatives, the Senate and the judiciary, or officials and personnel of Constitutional offices.

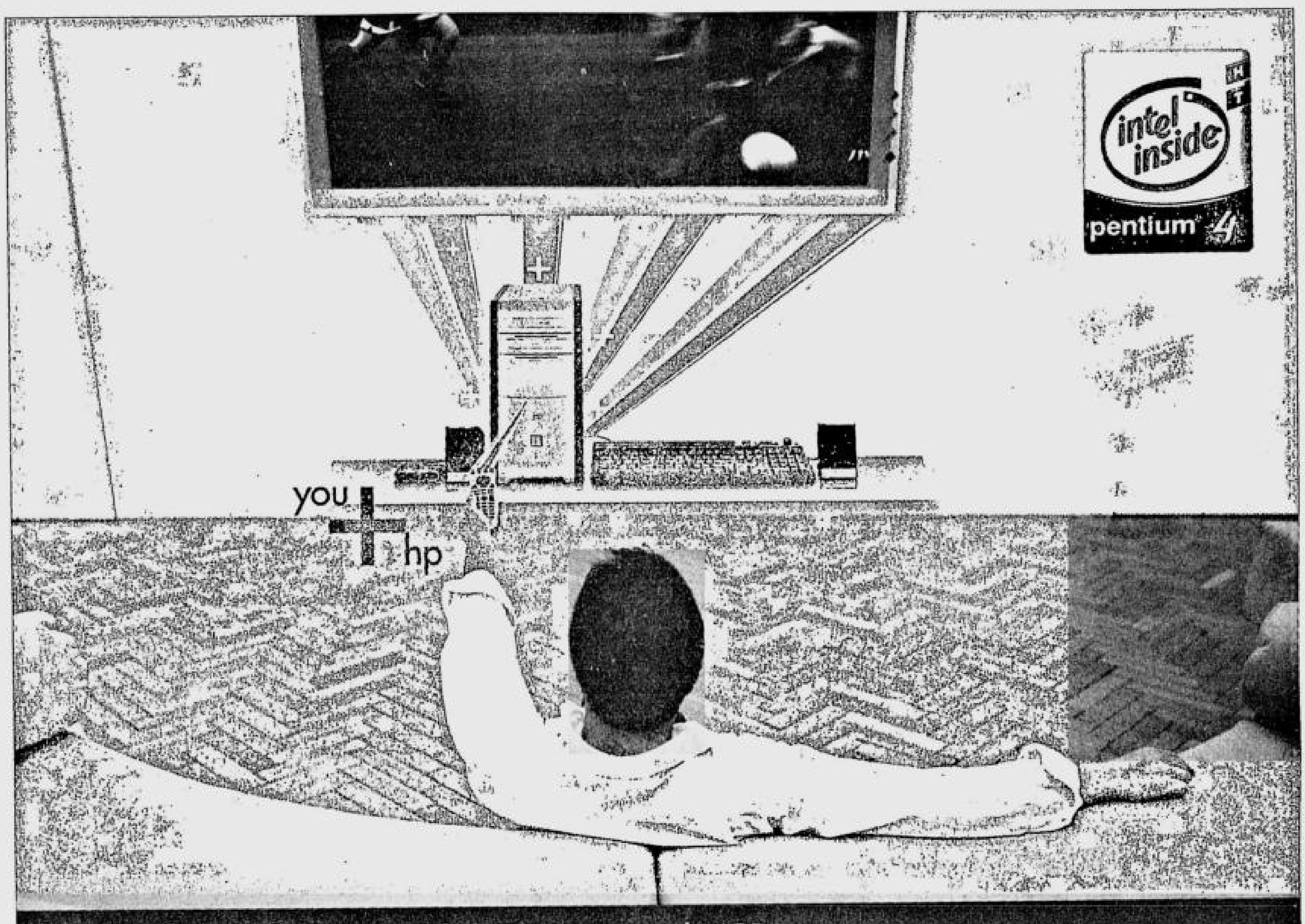
Strictly speaking, Nocos said, the act of hiring such escorts by congressmen and senators fell under the "ethical" and, therefore, administrative aspect of the law. As such, he said, the Ombudsman could not be asked to interfere.

Even if escort service girls managed to file a complaint with the office of the Ombudsman, Nocos said, it could be thrown out, or thrown back to the leaders of the House or the Senate.

Nocos added that his office could impose disciplinary measures only if related criminal offenses were committed—for instance, if pork barrel funds were used to pay the escorts, or if contractors or other benefactors footed the bill.

"If a contractor pays, there is definitely a transgression of law," Nocos said. In this case, he added, an escort should be able to testify that she received money directly from a contractor who personally accompanied the member of Congress contracting her services.

Still the official said, proving this would be easier said than done. Since this was an "indecent transaction," he pointed out, all parties concerned would be extra careful. "Only a fool would issue a check."



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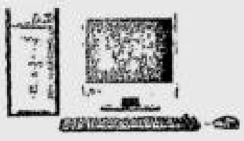

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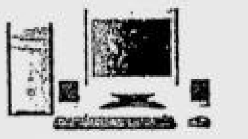

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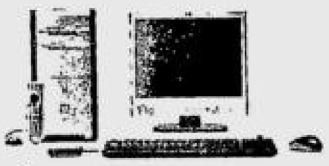

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Briton pleads for life; UK stands firm

BIGLEY

BAGHDAD—The British and Iraqi governments said on Thursday they would not bow to the demands of militants threatening to kill a British captive, despite a video message from the hostage pleading for his life.

The kidnappers say they will behead Briton Kenneth Bigley unless all Iraqi women are freed from US-run jails.

After a day of confusion on Wednesday over whether one of two Iraqi women in US custody in Iraq would be freed, the interim Iraqi government said in a statement that Prime Minister Iyad Allawi was not willing to allow her release.

"The government renews its call on the terrorists to release Kenneth Bigley forthwith and without condition," it said.

Italian government sources urged "utmost caution" over an Internet statement saying two female Italian aid workers kidnapped in Iraq had been killed, as there was no evidence to confirm the report. The Internet statement said the women had been killed because Italy had not pulled its troops out of Iraq.

The two were seized in broad daylight in Baghdad earlier this month. Last Thursday, Bigley and Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley were also seized by gunmen in Baghdad.

The Tawhid and Jihad group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi says it killed Armstrong and Hensley because the US military rejected its demand to free all Iraqi women from US-run prisons in Iraq.

Video footage showing the beheading of the two Americans has been posted on the Internet and CIA officials say analysis of Armstrong's killing suggests Zarqawi himself wielded the knife.

In a separate video message released by the kidnappers, the 62-year-old Bigley was shown pleading for his life and appealing for help to British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"I don't want to die. I don't deserve it," Bigley said. He was wearing the same kind of orange overalls that Armstrong and Hensley were made to wear before they were killed.

Bigley sobbed as he said he wanted to see his family again.

"I think this is my last chance to speak. I don't want to die in Iraq, neither do the women in the prisons," he said in the 11-minute message. "I want to live, I want to live."

Bigley appealed to Blair to meet the kidnappers' demands.

"Mr Blair, I'm nothing to you, just one person in the United Kingdom with a family like you... You can help, I know you can.

But British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the government could not negotiate with hostage-takers.

"Of course our hearts go out yet more to him and to his family," Straw told the BBC. "But I'm afraid tc say it can't alter the position of the British government."

Straw added: "We can't get into a situation of bargaining with terrorists because this would put many more people's lives at risk, not only in Iraq but around the world." *Reuters*

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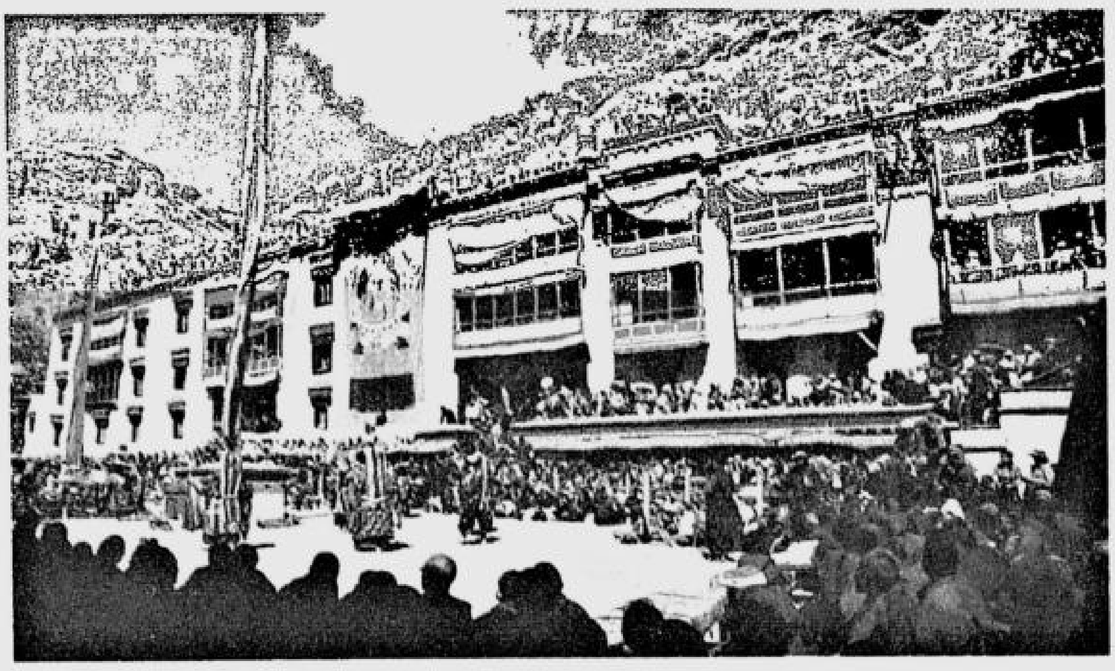

MYSTIC DANCES Dancers representing Buddhist deities take part in the mystic mask dances during the Hemis festival in the Hemis Buddhist monastery near the town of Leh, in the northern Indian region of Ladhak, June 28, 2004. Hemis observe a major extravaganza which comes once every 12 years, dedicated to Lord Padmasambhava venerated as the representative reincarnate of Buddha. AP

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Camera Pixel	0.3M	Clearer	0.1M
USB Cable	With	Easy Access	Without

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Janet's stunt costs CBS $.55M

WASHINGTON—The US government's media watchdog on Wednesday slapped CBS television with a $550,000-fine for broadcasting pop star Janet Jackson's breast to millions of people during the Super Bowl American football championship.

More than 540,000 complaints poured in to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) after Jackson's breast was revealed when singer Justin Timberlake pulled a piece of her bodice during the Super Bowl halftime show on Feb. 1, the regulator said.

The $550,000- fine is the stiffest penalty the agency can levy against CBS, which has 30 days to contest the FCC's findings.

The revealing of Jackson's breast, dubbed "nipplegate," for a few seconds on national television at an event watched by some 90 million viewers sparked an uproar across the country, while networks began imposing delays during live events to avoid another scandal.

"Countless families gathered around the television to watch one of our nation's most celebrated events," FCC Chairman Michael Powell said in a statement.

"Nudity, while not necessarily indecent itself, certainly should raise a red flag for a broadcaster contemplating its airing during the hours in which the law restricts indecency because children are likely in the audience," Powell said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

EU set to lift arms embargo on Libya

BRUSSELS—The EU agreed in principle on Wednesday to lift an 18-year-old arms embargo on Tripoli, bowing to pressure from Italy which wants to help the former pariah state fight illegal immigration. Rome has for several months been pressing its European Union (EU) counterparts to lift the embargo imposed on Libya in 1986, in order to be able to deliver equipment to Tripoli to beef up its frontiers. "We are heading in the direction of lifting (the embargo). It still has to be confirmed by... ministers," said one source, expressing caution since Germany, Denmark and Ireland say they want to "verify" details of the accord. Sanctions were imposed on Libya because of its role in state-sponsored terrorism, including the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. *AFP*

Haiti flood deaths top 1,000

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Haiti began burying hundreds of flood victims in mass graves on Wednesday while emergency food was distributed to some of the thousands of people made homeless by tropical storm "Jeanne." The death toll rose to 1,008 in the Artibonite region around the northern coastal city of Gonaives and 72 in Haiti's Northwest province, said Dr. Carl Murat Cantave, a government official. Another 1,000 people were missing and the final death count was likely to hit 2,000, he said. Walls of water roared down from the Caribbean country's deforested hills as the storm passed north of Haiti during the weekend, and left Gonaives and Port-de-Paix, another northern city, under a dense crust of mud. *Reuters*

Ex-pop star Cat Stevens deported from US

STEVENS

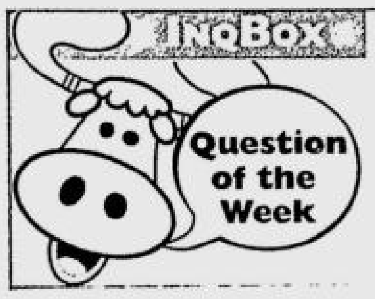
WASHINGTON—Former pop singer Cat Stevens, a Muslim, was deported to Britain on Wednesday after US officials said his activities could be "linked to terrorism" and his name was put on a US no-fly list. Arab-Americans and Muslims in Britain voiced outrage over the treatment of Stevens, who changed his name to Yusaf Islam when he shelved his singing and songwriting career and became a Muslim almost three decades ago. Homeland Security spokesperson Brian Doyle said Islam's Washington D.C.-bound plane was diverted on Tuesday to Bangor, Maine, after his name turned up on US lists of suspected terrorists. He was questioned by officials and then taken to Boston to catch a connecting flight in Washington for London. *Reuters*

Porter Goss confirmed as new US spy chief

WASHINGTON—The Senate confirmed Porter Goss as the new CIA director on Wednesday amid a clamor for intelligence reform, constant terrorism threats and a persistent insurgency in Iraq. The Senate voted 77-17 to approve the nomination. The votes against President George W. Bush's pick for spy chief all came from Democrats. Bush said he was pleased by the strong bipartisan majority that voted to confirm Goss. "He is the right man to take on the essential mission of leading the CIA at this critical moment in our nation," Bush said in a statement. Some who opposed Goss said the Republican congressman from Florida was too partisan to run the spy agency, which needed a leader who could give the White House intelligence assessments not colored by politics. *Reuters*

N. Korea seen preparing for missile test

SEOUL—South Korean and US military authorities are on alert as North Korea appeared to be preparing to test-fire a missile as part of a routine military drill, the defense ministry said Thursday. "South Korean and US military authorities have recently noticed missile-related activities in North Korea," spokesperson Nam Dae-yeon of the defense ministry said. "The North's missile-related activities are probably part of its annual military drill," he said. "We cannot rule out the possibility of the North test-firing missiles. South Korean and US authorities are closely following the movement in the North," Nam said. *AFP*



Some militant party-list representatives have protested the reduction of their pork barrel (from 35 million to 10 million pesos each) for the latter half of 2004. Is their protest valid? Why or why not?

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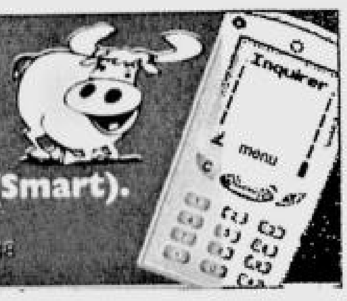


Yudhoyono ready for power as Megawati admits failures

JAKARTA—Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was preparing to enter the history books Thursday after achieving a majority in Indonesia's first-ever direct presidential election, as his predecessor apologized for her defeated government's shortcomings.

With 105 million votes counted from Monday's vote, Yudhoyono had 64.2 million, a majority based on turnout estimates of 123 million. His 61.1 percent vote share gives him a landslide lead over incumbent Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Neither candidate has claimed victory or conceded defeat in the vote, hailed as free and fair by international monitors, but Yudhoyono has already been preparing his new Cabinet while Megawati conducted a post-mortem on her term.

In her final address to parliament as president, Megawati on Thursday sought to highlight the achievements made during her three years at Indonesia's helm but confessed her government had been found wanting.

"There are a lot of things we still need to work on, including some very fundamental matters," she said, citing unemployment, poverty and education.

"For these shortcomings and unsettled matters, to the respected assembly and to the entire people of Indonesia that I love, together with the vice president, we seek forgiveness," she said.

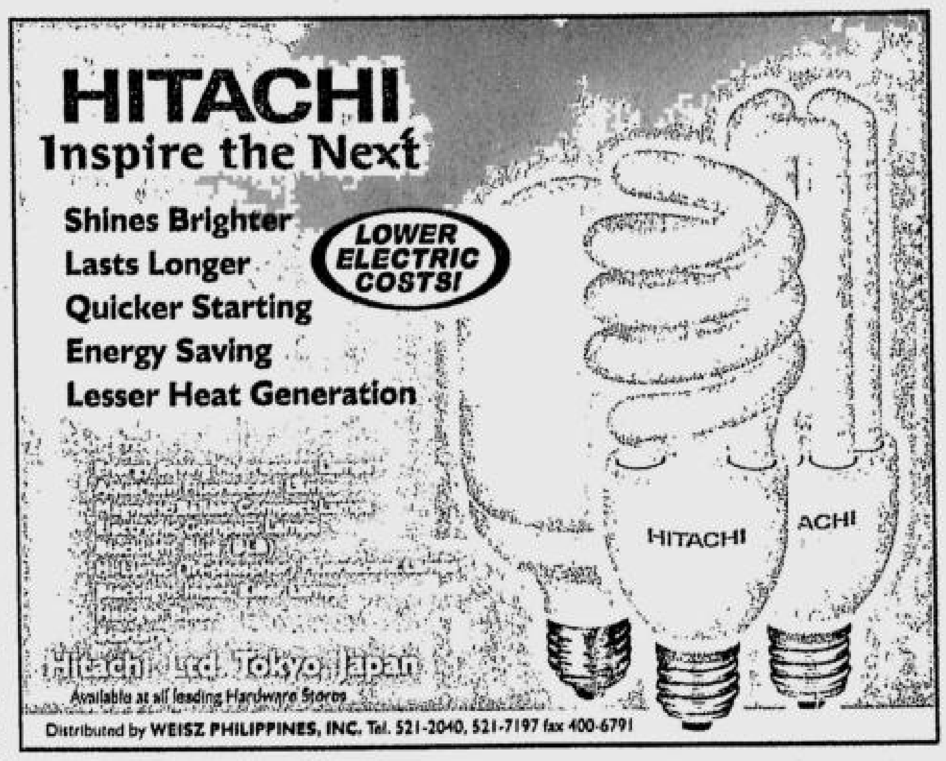
Megawati stressed she had made great economic progress during her term and warned that her successor faced tough challenges, including the persistent threat of terrorism.

Both issues were seen as prominent factors in the election which analysts said was largely a pronouncement on her failure to revive the economy despite achieving relative stability.

Yudhoyono, a former security minister who oversaw efforts to hunt down the men responsible for the October 2002 Bali bombings and other attacks, rode to victory on a ticket of economic reform and fighting endemic corruption.

Megawati said her time in office had witnessed the stabilization of the rupiah and the lowering of inflation as well as a return to per capita income levels experienced before the 1997-98 regional financial crisis.

She said more work needed to be done to tackle terrorists who have carried out three major attacks in the past two years in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-populated nation. *AFP*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5 killed in Palestinian raid on Gaza settlement; suicide bomber kills 2

GAZA CITY—Five people, including three Israelis, were killed during a Palestinian raid on a Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip Thursday amid a flare-up in violence on the eve of the Yom Kippur holiday.

The five were all killed when a group of Palestinian militants tried to break into the heavily guarded settlement of Morag under heavy fog cover.

Although there was no immediate confirmation from the military spokesperson's office of the Israeli deaths, security sources confirmed three had been killed.

Military radio had also announced that two Palestinians had been shot dead in the operation.

While their bodies had yet to be returned to Palestinian authorities, loudspeakers in the nearby Rafah and Khan Yunis refugee said that two people had been killed in the operation.

The announcements in the camps also claimed the attack in the name of three of the smaller militant groups—the Popular Resistance Committees, Aburish and Islamic Jihad.

An anonymous spokesman for the groups said in a phone call that three people had taken part in the operation.

The early morning raid came just hours after at least seven Palestinians were wounded when Israeli helicopters attacked the Khan Yunis refugee camp, Palestinian security sources said.

At the same time, Israeli settlers using many vehicles, among them bulldozers, drove into the refugee camp, which sparked a trading of shots between Israeli military and armed Palestinians, the sources said.

Five Palestinians were wounded in that clash, several of them seriously.

Earlier in the night, Israeli helicopters had already attacked the refugee camp once. Israeli military sources said that attack was aimed at two armed Palestinians who had approached an army unit, in the area to root out gunfire targeting Israeli soldiers and settlements.

Mortars and anti-tank weapons were used earlier against the Israeli settlement bloc of Gush Katif, immediately adjacent to the camp, without causing any casualties, the sources said.

Funerals, meanwhile were expected to be held for two Israeli border policemen who were killed on Wednesday in a suicide attack by a Palestinian woman bomber.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD suicide bomber Zainab Abu Salem AP

Eighteen-year-old Zainab Ali Abu Salem from a refugee camp in the Nablus regi on of the northern West Bank injured 17 other people when she blew herself up at a checkpoint in the French Hill district of east Jerusalem.

As is standard after such suicide attacks, the Israeli army demolished the bomber's family home early Thursday.

The army also demolished the home of Ala Sanakra, a local militant leader suspected of having masterminded Wednesday's attack.

The prospect of an Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip next year has failed to put a halt to the cycle of violence in the conflict which is entering its fourth year. *AFP*

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Kith and kin

EDITORIAL

WITH OVER P5 million in cash advances in 2001 that remain unliquidated properly up to now, Chair Winston Garcia should be taken to task for failing to meet the requirements of public accountability and transparency, values that are necessary to ensure that the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is properly and effectively managed. The GSIS officialdom may say that is merely nitpicking, raised by muckrakers who refuse to recognize that the GSIS has vastly improved its income under Garcia. But the issue of proper liquidation of cash advances is valid. Proper liquidation means efficient management of the pension funds of tens of thousands of government workers.

The GSIS insists that the advances were liquidated. But the liquidation came in the form of an overriding certification that merely declared that the disbursements were used "in relation to or by reason of" Garcia's executive position. This form of liquidation does not fulfill the most elementary audit procedures and standards. And even if the GSIS insists this was above board and approved by the audit office, it should at least have the sensitivity to suit its procedures in accordance with unassailable norms. Public accountability requires no less.

But what is very telling about the report on Garcia's disbursements is that the disbursement vouchers were prepared by his sister, Carolyn Garcia-Empemano, who was his senior assistant, receiving more than P130,000 monthly in salary and allowances in 2001. That a kin prepares the vouchers for Garcia's approval may not be illegal but it is highly questionable. And since she's her brother's assistant, could Empemano properly liquidate his advances? Or if he liquidated them himself, could she be objective enough to perform the most basic audit and challenge him when the liquidation fell short of the standard?

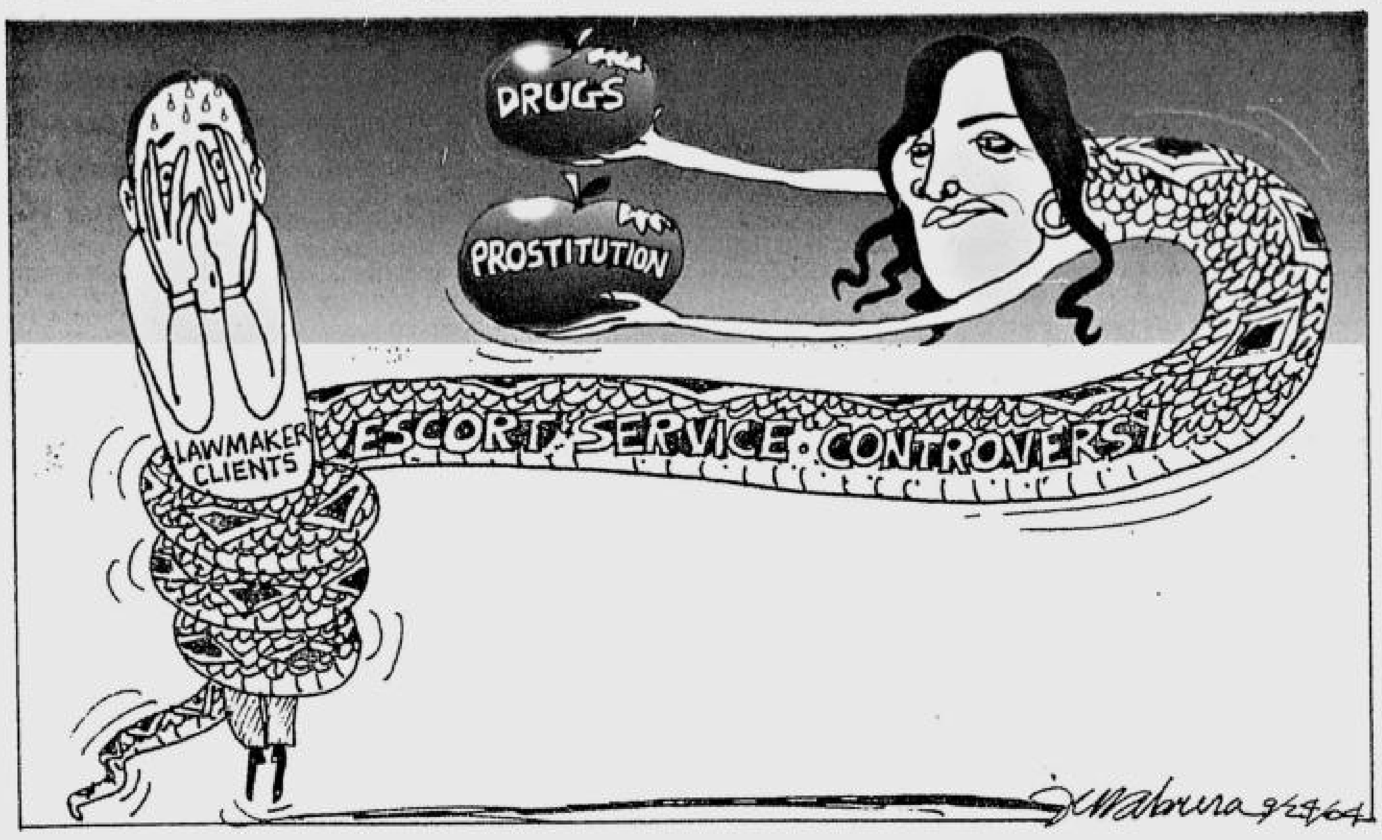
Now Garcia could say that as an official, he is entitled to an assistant who enjoys his confidence. That may be so. But couldn't he find somebody on whom he could repose his confidence in the whole GSIS? To be sure, Empemano's work could be done by any of the secretaries or accounting clerks in the plantilla of the GSIS who aren't receiving salaries as high as she does. Moreover, confidence is not an absolute element in effective management. For Garcia and other similarly situated top officials to insist on the strictest confidence from those around them smells like a confidence game is being set up.

But Garcia is not alone in putting premium on confidence and kinship over efficiency and transparency. Even his critics among our lawmakers are guilty of employing their kin and making the public pay for them. Many of our lawmakers have relatives as staffers. When he was senator, Robert Jaworski made his son chief of staff. Teofisto Guingona made his daughter an assistant when he was in the Senate. When he was a congressman, Sergio Apostol made his daughter, Amelyn Apostol Buenviaje, chief of staff. When he was appointed chair and president of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp., he brought her along and later created a position for her, that of marketing manager, with a salary reportedly reaching P200,000.

The practice is not exclusive to the legislature. The executive and the judiciary teem with relatives of important officials working as confidential employees. They receive salaries beyond the pale of the salary standardization law.

That kith and kin fill confidential and high-paying government positions is a variant of the dynastic and feudalistic makeup of our politics and governance. Garcia and other officials may insist that there's nothing essentially wrong with putting kin in confidential positions, that this is merely a cultural trait, but they should at least realize this does not augur well for effective public management. If the GSIS and other government-owned and -controlled corporations insist that the regime of high salaries that obtains in their offices is necessary to enable them to compete with the private sector and attract competent managers and professionals, then there's no reason for them to appoint their own relatives and friends as assistants, staff members and confidential employees. This simply flies in the face of professionalism and effective management that the high salaries are supposed to engender. Surely there are more competent people than their kin. Unless, of course, Garcia and the other officials look at GOCCs as their personal fiefdoms.

With that outlook, let the budget deficit go hang. Let the filial surplus thrive.



Restore maximum income tax rate to 70 percent

(Due to a computer glitch, an old column with a similar date was sent to the INQUIRER and published in the Sept. 22 issue. Though it was written a year ago, the issue remains valid today, however. The following column should have been published instead. Sorry for the mix-up.)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PRESIDENT and Congress continue to dance the *moro-moro*around the pork barrel, an outstanding example of corruption, wastage and abuse of power in government. The President asks members of Congress to forego 40 percent of their pork barrel. The legislators counter that the President should forego her own pork barrel (yes, she has it in the form of discretionary, intelligence and social funds).

But all this is just for show and intended to fool the people and preserve the status quo. If the President is sincere about reducing the congressional pork barrel, all she has to do is remove the appropriation from her proposed budget—and not just 40 percent of it. No need to ask Congress' permission. If Congress is sincere about cutting the pork in the executive department, all it has to do is reduce the appropriations for intelligence and discretionary allowances. So why are they not doing this?

If Congress would cut all government allowances by just 20 percent, about P20 billion would be saved, an amount equal to the expected revenue from the proposed increase in tariff on oil imports as well as the congressional pork barrel.

As stated last Monday, while the Constitution prohibits members of lawmaking bodies from increasing their own salaries, they have been surreptitiously increasing their own allowances and other benefits. The list of allowances top officials pay themselves can fill a whole page. Aside from the usual discretionary and intelligence allowances, there are allowances for cars, drivers, gasoline, maintenance, travel, mail and phone, entertainment, housing, etc., etc. Some even have grocery allowances.

And in the case of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs), their boards of directors can and have increased their own salaries—and even their retirement benefits.

Easily the most obnoxious is the case of the Development Bank of the Philippines whose board of directors approved a P75,000 budget for each director for "office and staff allowance." It allowed each director to appoint two relatives to be paid out of this allowance. It was disapproved by the Commission on Audit, but the board defied the COA and went ahead and created the new positions anyway. The directors obviously believe that charity begins at home.

It is not only members of Congress and boards of directors who have abused their power to increase allowances. Members of provincial, city, municipal and even barangay councils have abused theirs, too.

Easily the most abused privilege is the car plan. Members of the boards and councils attend meetings only once or twice a month. They already have one or two or more of their own vehicles. Yet they are provided with more new vehicles at taxpayers' expense—luxury models *pa*—plus back-up vehicles for their bodyguards.

Under these car plans, the vehicles bought by the government become the properties of the users after a few years and after they have paid, on installment, a token price. In some cases, when an official is replaced, he does not return the vehicle assigned to him and it is lost to the government.

Theoretically, there is a watchdog, the COA, that is supposed to check this form of abuse. But the auditors are coopted into the conspiracy by being given their own cars. So they turn a blind eye, and everybody is happy. It is like letting a gang of thieves loose in the vaults of the Treasury.

The chiefs of the GOCCs, the governors and mayors use these benefits as a bribe to get what they want from the board and council members, in the same way that the President uses the pork barrel as a bribe to members of Congress.

In the face of such wanton abuse and wastage, the President wants to get the money to fund them from the people through bigger and more taxes. She has proposed eight tax reform measures. Of these, only the increase in the taxes on tobacco and liquor has the least opposition, although this is likely to increase smuggling and reduce local production and sale of these products, hence, less taxes collected.

The most regressive is the increase in oil tariff. This will impact on power and transportation rates, and hence on all products, and raise the inflation rate. It will hit the poor the hardest, but the government likes this because it is the easiest to collect.

One basic principle of taxation is to tax most those who can afford it the most. Yet our tax structure favors the rich and punishes the poor, especially the middle class. While increasing consumption taxes, which hits everybody, it has reduced direct taxes on the rich.

It has reduced the maximum income tax rate from the original 70 percent to only 30 percent. Thus, the mega-rich, the multi-billionaires that Forbes Magazine listed among the richest in the region, pay the same 30 percent tax rate as a member of the middle class. That original 70 percent maximum rate, mind you, applied only to income above P500,000 a year.

Before Congress enacts a new tax measure, it should first raise the 30 percent limit on income tax rates to the original 70 percent. But of course the legislators lowered the limit because it benefits them. They themselves earn millions for which they should pay the correct taxes.

SC frowns upon Romeo and Juliet romances

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE HIGH COURT has upheld a job contract that allows management to ban employees from marrying staff members of a rival company, modern-day corporate equivalents of Shakespeare's Montagues and Capulets. In Duncan Association v. Glaxo Philippines, Glaxo asked employees to sign a contract in which they promised "to avoid having [a] personal or family interest...in any competitor" and "to disclose to management any existing or future relationships." In case of "a possible conflict of interest," the employee must "agree to resign voluntarily...as a matter of company policy."

Pedro Tuason was a fine employee by all accounts. His only fault was that he fell in love with Betsy, an employee of a rival company. Pedro claims he was "constructively dismissed" by being exiled to Butuan, and that Glaxo violated his "right to marry" and to "equal protection" by treating him differently solely on account of his marriage.

The Court upheld the contract, saying that Glaxo's policy was a "valid exercise of management prerogatives" and that Glaxo had the "right to guard its trade secrets [and] confidential programs" and was entitled "to protect its right to reasonable returns on investments."

But surely Pedro is just as entitled to his right to marry and to equal protection? The Court says Pedro signed that contract voluntarily. But when an employee bargains away his legally protected rights, are the courts bound to honor the waiver? Can an employee bargain away his right to the minimum wage? Can a paraplegic bargain away his right against discrimination on the basis of physical disability? Could Pedro have waived the constitutional protection for marriage as "an inviolable social institution" and for the "right of spouses to found a family"? That is why courts are empowered to strike down contracts that are contrary to law, morals and public policy, especially employment contracts that are "asymmetrical," where one party, the employee, is at a disadvantage and the employer has superior bargaining power.

The aim of the law in this context is to insulate family values from the menace of the market. Sure, let the market reign over all things commercial. All that the law says is that there are certain things that are placed beyond the reach of the market, that are "inalienable"—cannot be bartered away—like, in Pedro's case, choosing a wife. To force him to choose between his job and Betsy is callous, the Constitution says. There is a long noble history in law where courts refuse to lend their honor to contracts that dishonor constitutionally guaranteed claims.

The Court invokes the "state action" requirement that says the equal protection clause is "addressed only to the state or those acting under color of its authority" and "erects no shield against merely private conduct, however discriminatory or wrongful." Our Charter makes no such distinction: it says plainly "nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws." That language protects the "person," the victim, whoever violates his equality rights, whether the violator is the state or a private person. For instance, can a taxicab reject pregnant women or grandparents because they can't board the cab fast enough? Can McDonald's or Jollibee exclude street children because they are not good for its image?

There are many ways to satisfy state action. It would have been easier here because the Constitution requires the state to respect the "sanctity of family life" as the "foundation of the nation," etc. In light of this affirmative command, the Court's inaction is the state action. By tolerating intolerance, the Court becomes a willing accomplice. It has blessed the sin with its imprimatur, and owned up to the wrong it should have chastised.

In the end, this should not be seen as a case of love versus profit. Rather it is, in its most technical legal sense, a question of the "level of scrutiny," of the standard of judicial review to be applied by the Court. If all that the employer imposes are ordinary job requirements, like wearing a uniform, observing official hours, etc., it would be enough to say that the management prerogative "to protect a competitive position" is reasonable (or, in legal jargon, it meets the "minimum test of rationality"). But if the employer burdens a constitutionally protected claim like the right to marry, and treats an employee differently because of his choice of a life partner, then the employer must discharge a higher burden. He will be judged by heightened standards because he impinges upon rights which enjoy a higher level of protection. That standard is called "strict scrutiny," which requires that the regulation be supported by compelling interests and that it be narrowly tailored to achieve that purpose. Regrettably, the Court, by not applying strict scrutiny, has relieved Glaxo of its duty to craft those "narrowly tailored" measures that equal protection entails.

In case you have any lingering doubts, listen to the Court praise Glaxo for its benign but feudal concern for Pedro: "When their relationship was still in its initial stage, Tecson's supervisors at Glaxo constantly reminded him about its effects on his employment..." In other words, when Pedro and Betsy were just falling in love, the company did its best to smother that love. To think that falling in love is one of life's sweetest joys, and here comes your boss reminding you of "its effects on [your] employment."

Call me an old-fashioned romantic, but that is reprehensible. In the words of the bard: "For stony limits cannot hold love out, And what love can do that dares love attempt."

* * *

Comments to raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph

Australia's 'gun boat diplomacy'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN REACTION to the car bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta two weeks ago, Australia's Prime Minister John Howard threatened to deploy Australian anti-terror "flying squads" to carry out preemptive strikes on terrorist groups in Southeast Asia to protect Australian lives and establishments in the region.

Howard's proposal has kicked up a fresh round of irritation in Australia's relations with its Southeast Asian neighbors already frayed by Canberra's insolent and patronizing statements over their capacity to curb terrorist activities and their commitment to the US-led coalition in the war on international terrorism. Malaysia and the Philippines, the countries likely to be asked to host the Australian "flying squads," promptly rejected Howard's plan.

The proposal has rankled Southeast Asian sensitivity over their national sovereignty. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said, "We won't allow any preemptive strike when it comes to our national territory." The Philippine government rebuffed Howard's project, in the wake of Malaysia's rejection. "Any intrusion of flying squads into Philippine territory is out of the question," said a statement from Manila. Indonesia, where two terrorist attacks have been made in two years on Australians—one in Bali and the other on the Australian Embassy—has not reacted as it awaits the assumption of the presidency of Gen. Sustilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Indonesia is no less prickly over its sovereignty and meddling in its internal affairs than the Philippines and Malaysia. It is therefore unlikely that Jakarta would welcome the presence of foreign troops—no matter if they are disguised as "flying squads"—to ensure the security and safety of foreign interests in Indonesia. This is not to say that the safety and security of foreigners in another country are unimportant. National sovereignty and pride dictate that such security measures be left in the hands of local authorities. To send flying squads into their territories is offensive to their pride and reveals the insensitivity of Australia to Asians' sense of nationalism.

The image conjured up in Southeast Asia by the Howard threat is that it is a pale imitation of US President George W. Bush's preemptive policy on terrorism exemplified by the US-led invasion of Iraq. The plan reminds Asians—not only Filipinos, Indonesians and Malaysians but also Chinese—of American gun boat diplomacy being resuscitated by Australia.

Through its steadfast commitment to Bush's "coalition of the willing" on Iraq and through its deployment of 800 troops in the occupation of Iraq, Australia has etched a strong perception in Southeast Asia that it is playing the role of regional sheriff in the counter-terrorism war in the Asia Pacific as a surrogate of the global gendarme—the United States—whose preemptive strike policy is failing as an effective instrument to fight terrorism, in the light of the escalating attacks by Iraqi militants on US troops in Iraq and the execution and hostage-taking of individuals associated with American interests.

Howard's plan rubs salt on still fresh wounds in the Philippines which, only recently was condemned by the Howard government of being a "marshmallow" after the Philippine government bowed to Iraqi militants' demand to withdraw the tiny Philippine contingent in Iraq in exchange for the life of a Filipino truck driver they had taken hostage.

Even in Australia itself, the Howard project has come under fire from the opposition Labour Party as the general elections near. It has driven a cleavage between Howard and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer. Howard's stance has made more difficult Downer's job of patching up recent irritants between Australia and key countries in Southeast Asia.

The bombing of the Australian Embassy handed Howard an opportunity to project a tough anti-terrorist stance, and highlight security from direct terrorist attack as an electoral issue. But Labour Party leader Mark Latham said that the preemption stance was "a foolhardy and dangerous foreign policy" and Labour's shadow defense policy spokesperson, Kim Beazly, has branded the Howard plan as damaging to closer cooperation between Canberra and Southeast Asian governments in efforts to combat regional terrorist groups. Latham seized on the Howard-Downer differences saying Downer had junked Howard's "dangerous" policy of preemptive strikes.

The rift emerged after Howard, when asked, if preemptive strikes included countries of Southeast Asia, said: "Of course, it does." Contradicting this, Downer said he had previously told Asian neighbors that Australia would not deploy troops on their soil and that the government's statements were purely "hypothetical." Downer added that preemption would not be needed in Southeast Asia as governments there "would be able to thwart terrorist attacks."

In other interviews, some government ministers said preemption did not foreshadow strikes on suspected Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terrorist training camps in Mindanao. Howard and Downer have said JI camps would not be attacked because there was no evidence it would attack Australia directly. Any deployment of Australian teams would require negotiations with host countries on the modus of their operation and cooperation with local authorities.

Any Australian deployment in Mindanao would be superfluous and would run into complications with the anti-terror operations already under way. Joint military exercises are taking place between Philippine and American troops in connection with their joint campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, the terrorist group linked to the international terrorist network al-Qaida.

Truly amazing

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"BEAT the bastard!" was the cry that echoed in our home Wednesday, as my children and I sat riveted before the TV set for the live telecast of "Amazing Race" over Studio 23.

"The bastard" was Colin Guinn, who up till the penultimate episode had dominated the race around the world with his girlfriend Christie Woods. The pair had actually finished first in six of the 13 episodes in this season and with every victory Colin had grown more and more obnoxious. But to us, he sealed his reputation when he nearly landed in a Kenyan jail after refusing to pay a taxi driver and arguing with an airport security officer and later a policeman who threatened to throw him in jail.

"Typical American abroad," we muttered, dearly wishing that Colin would indeed spend some time behind bars and get himself and Christie eliminated. Finally, he paid up, but only with the most insulting gesture of throwing his precious dollar bills to the ground.

In contrast, Chip and Kim McAllister seemed the very models of decorum and good cheer. They marveled at the sights, helped out their fellow competitors, and couldn't believe their good fortune in finding themselves in exotic locales. Chip, hearty and good-hearted and an African-American, won my heart when he gushed at finding himself in Africa, the "heartland," while the other competitors grumbled about the heat and the surly drivers.

And so it was that as the race neared its conclusion and Colin and Christie, and Chip and Kim, emerged the finalists, we cheered for the "married parents" and prayed that Colin "the bastard" would crash and burn.

Sure enough, Chip and Kim crossed the finish line first, earning the $1-million prize after a grueling race that covered 72,000 miles over six continents and 11 countries, the Philippines included.

* * *

FOR avid Pinoy fans of this Emmy Award-winning reality show, such as my family, the inclusion of the Philippines in the itinerary gave Season Five an extra sheen. We couldn't wait until the race touched down in Manila and the excitement rose to a fever pitch when we found out Manila and El Nido in Palawan would figure in the final stages of the competition.

Shooting here last February, officials of World Race Productions contracted the services of Jun Juban, who heads a production outfit that has done work on numerous Hollywood movies shot here. Juban in turn contacted local suppliers and talents needed for the episodes taped here. One of them was a team of underwater cinematographers composed of Marissa Florendo, Carina Escudero and Louie Barrios who filmed the four finalists in Palawan.

"Very professional, very easy to work with," is how Barrios describes the folks at World Race Productions. During the time he worked on the shoot, Barrios was able to observe the relations between the production people and the contestants, which was, as he describes it, distant and businesslike. "The crew that followed each team around was not even allowed to talk to the contestants," he remembers.

But as a contractual talent, Barrios was free to mingle with the contestants after shooting their scene. Colin he remembers for his endless and bitter prattle about the "Yield" that Chip and Kim imposed on them at the Malagueña Jeepney factory.

Ironically, Barrios had yet to watch a single episode of the latest season of "Amazing Race," including the Philippine segments. "I travel around a lot for my work," he explained. Though he knew shortly after the teams left Manila who eventually won, Barrios and everyone else who worked on the Philippine shoot of "Race" managed to keep the results a secret. "We were made to sign a non-disclosure agreement," Barrios said, "and if we broke the contract, we would be made to pay a ridiculous sum, something like $10 million!"

* * *

THE MCALLISTERS, who are perhaps the oldest contestants to ever win (Chip is 46, Kim is 44) and, as far as I can remember, the first married straights, disclosed in a morning TV talk show that the first thing they would do would be to donate a portion of the prize money to their church.

But leave it to Colin to steal the thunder even from the winners. Also guesting on that show, he said his image as a hot-headed arrogant competitor who browbeat Christie was just the result of "bad editing," and that in reality their relationship was on a more equal footing. He then went down on his knees and proposed to Christie—on live TV!

That's why we love "The Amazing Race." Aside from the sights and the glimpses of various cultures, it never runs out of shocks and surprises. Here's hoping Season Six will feature the country again. I must say the El Nido scenes made me want to pack my bags for a weekend in Palawan!

* * *

THE WOMEN'S Media Circle (WoMedia) presents the advocacy concert "Hearts on Fire" tonight starting at 6 p.m. at the Gota de Leche complex, 859 S.H. Loyola St. (formerly Lepanto), Sampaloc, Manila. Featured performers are Francis Magalona, Cookie Chua and Color It Red, Bagong Dugo, Makiling Ensemble and 7 Purple Moons. Hosts are Joe Spinner of dwLS-FM and this columnist, who will co-host the "Question & Answer" portion.

"Hearts on Fire" is an advocacy campaign among young people in Manila that focuses on health, risks and related issues. It actually opened with an ongoing exhibit on health concerns of young people, and it will be capped by tonight's concert of musicians, celebrity advocates and multi-media presentations. There are also plans to extend the project through traveling exhibits in different schools in Manila.

To get free tickets to the "Hearts on Fire Concert," simply visit the "Hearts on Fire Exhibit" anytime today between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information, contact Chona at 735-9687 or 734-6840.

News and gossip from Mabini

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

BROWSING through Apolinario Mabini's correspondence recently, I was drawn to a number of chatty letters to Marcelo H. del Pilar. My original impression, after going through all these letters twice several years ago, was that, compared to Rizal's, they were devoid of human interest. Mabini probably turned serious and conscious of his letters when he was Emilio Aguinaldo's trusted adviser.

In the US Library of Congress are letters addressed to Aguinaldo, with marginal notes, usually a draft reply, written in Mabini's small almost feminine script (which is why some people make a big thing about his surname, maliciously linking it to *binibini*). Poor Mabini was the target of a demolition job that originated from the Malolos Congress. The nasty rumors about his paralysis and venereal disease emanated from his enemies in Congress, and these were debunked only in the 1980s following an autopsy proving that the Sublime Paralytic lost the use of his legs due to polio, not syphilis.

Mabini had a human side and we get rare glimpses of this in his letters to Del Pilar. For example, in a letter dated Nov. 28, 1894, he narrated:

"In the last town fiesta of Cavite, moments before the start of the bicycle race, which was one of the highlights of the celebration, the captain of the civil guards of one of the military posts of the said province pushed Don Jose Luna out of his way, insulting him at the same time. As it was to be expected, this resulted in a challenge to a duel, which the captain refused to accept. He is the kind of man who values his life as much as he despises the dignity of a fellow human being."

One would wish that Mabini's notes and comments made it to some small blind item or a column in La Solidaridad because some of the gossip are as interesting today as they were 110 years ago. In the same letter of Nov. 28, 1894, he said:

"In Santa Isabel, Bulacan, an event took place lately, news of which was circulated here among our friends. The parish priest of that town visited the Municipal School for Girls and, because of his brazen and discourteous behavior, of which only our friars are capable, a fight ensued between him and two girls. The girls came out with bruised heads, whereas the parish priest, his garments torn to shreds, ran down the streets, giving a show of nakedness never expected even by Christ himself. I am not in a position to guarantee this news."

Sometimes Mabini relates the social and political tension during those times. On Jan. 22, 1895, he wrote Del Pilar:

"Rumors of an approaching rebellion are starting again to circulate here and the government is trying to forestall it by giving secret orders to the police to raid any meeting of the Freemasons and arrest the people they come upon as if they were gamblers. For this reason, the workshops here, which will never be found guilty of audacity because they have learned enough prudence, have suspended their work to avoid criminal complaint for unlawful assembly. In truth, I do not know how Freemasonry, being a lawful association in Spain, could be unlawful in the Philippines, where it is practiced exactly as Spanish Freemasonry."

In our history textbooks, the Philippine Revolution led by Andres Bonifacio seems to appear out of nowhere. Of course, the Revolution is supposed to have resulted from centuries of neglect and opposition, but to have rumors of a rebellion circulating over a year before August 1896 made me realize how paranoid Spanish Manila could be. In the same letter, Mabini related:

"The municipal captain of the town of Talisay, Batangas, is under court-martial because a letter, signed by him and addressed to the German Consul requesting that the accompanying letter be sent to Rizal, was found in the person of the drunkard. In this letter, Rizal was being informed that the people of Talisay and others were already prepared and only waiting for his decision. It is clear that it is a coarse scheme, plotted by his enemies, which does not even deserve to be mentioned had the authorities not given it importance and, like Quixote, started persecuting what did not exist."

So rumors of a rebellion were not real? The alleged letter to Rizal from rebels in Talisay was a forgery planted on this poor innocent man? Didn't Bonifacio send an emissary to Dapitan to ask Rizal what he thought of the revolution and whether he was willing to support it?

This mixture of news and gossip deserves a second look if only to help us recreate the history of the late 19th century. In a letter dated April 29, 1895 Mabini related news that sounded like Basilio and Crispin in "Noli Me Tangere":

"In Manila nowadays the only topic of conversation is the theft of a ciborium in the church of Paco. The suspects, two sacristans, died in San Juan de Dios Hospital because of tortures inflicted on them with real inquisitorial fury. There are rumors circulating around which appear as truth. What is worse is that, it is also being heard around that one of the sacristans declared that the parish priest had knowledge of the theft, doubtless to implicate certain persons whom he does not trust. But this last rumor is still uncertain."

Mabini wrote only to Del Pilar but now his letters are read by others who are curious about his life and times.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Please disturb

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

EVERY evening at Rockwell in Makati, as plush boutiques wind down their activities, there is a building that goes in the other direction, coming alive as hundreds of students stream into Ateneo's Professional Schools for their classes in law, government and business.

For two nights this week, the building was busier than usual as the school brought several hundred students together for plenary lectures, part of an extraordinary exercise called Mulat-Diwa—an opening of the mind or, in the words of Dr, Alfredo Bengzon, who heads the business school, "the eyes of the heart"—to get the students to reflect on how business might contribute to the task of nation-building.

I was invited to lecture on culture and nation-building while Ateneo's own Fr. Jojo Magadia spoke on economics, politics and poverty. I will admit that even after years of teaching, I found the assignment daunting. After all, we were being asked to deal with some 800 people at each session, our lectures transmitted live to several sites within the Rockwell campus, as well as to Ateneo's extension sites in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Subic and Cebu City.

Skeptical? I will admit I was that way too; after all, talk about social conscience and nation-building isn't usually done in a business school. Yet by the end of the second round of talks, I could feel the atmosphere in the auditorium, and in the remote sites, was charged. People were, well, disturbed, and that was the most important point of the exercise.

Body mining

Before the plenary lectures, the students got to see an episode of GMA-7's "Imbestigador," titled "Pobreng Pinoy." I have worked with the poor in rural and urban areas for many years, but "Pobreng Pinoy" still had new shocking revelations.

What was most striking about the documentary was the way the poor find ways to survive: subsisting on instant noodles, setting up shacks on rivers (to get around the ban on squatting on land), taking over abandoned vehicles to build a home. But its most disturbing revelations were about the selling of body parts, "*kinakalkal ang katawan*" or "mining the body" as host Mike Enriquez put it. We hear of such cases, but I was not quite prepared to learn the extent of what could be sold.

"Pobreng Pinoy" featured professional blood donors, something the public has been aware of for a long time. But that was the mildest example of body mining. It also featured a man who had sold all his teeth to dental students needing subjects to practice tooth extractions. He still goes to these dental students, this time to let them practice on his mouth for the fitting of dentures. He has also become an agent, looking for other people willing to let dental students practice their extraction skills on them.

Another man interviewed on the show talked about how he had donated some of his skin for a patient needing grafts. He got P5,000 for a small piece of skin from his leg, and now plans to sell his kidney. The trade in kidneys is actually thriving, with buyers sometimes coming in from overseas.

The most shocking example of body mining was a man who had sold one of his eyes, for P50,000, the money used up to treat his mother's heart condition.

There were other heartbreaking stories in this trade of body parts, ending with a mother who had accepted P50,000 from someone who wanted to adopt her newborn child.

A nation dismembered

During one of the plenary sessions, the topic of overseas Filipino workers came up.

While recognizing the extent of remittances coming in, Father Jojo wondered if overseas labor was really making a dent on people's lives. Sure, homes are built and children get to finish college because of the remittances, but Father Jojo also wondered how much of workers' earnings go into productive activities to make a difference for national development.

I had to speak out, too, again acknowledging that our overseas workers are making heroic contributions to the Philippine economy but wondering what the long-term costs would be. I shared the story of a 21-year-old girl who had been recruited to work in Japan. She had become pregnant before she could leave and after the baby was born, she began to consider the possibilities of paying her way out of her contract.

The people at the promotions agency did not take kindly to her request to withdraw from the recruitment, first telling her she'd need to pay at least P70,000 for expenses they'd incurred for her training and documentation. Not only that, the staff lectured her on the need to be more responsible: "Aren't you ashamed to your younger brother and sister? By not going to Japan, you're letting them down."

As if that statement was not bad enough, she was always hectored: "Someday when your baby grows up, don't you think you'd be ashamed telling your child that you chose not to go to Japan to work?"

My regular readers know I've always been supportive of overseas workers but there are times, and they are becoming more frequent, when I wonder what the long-term social costs will be for such large-scale deployment.

The anecdote about the young girl who had just delivered stirred up the audience, and got Dr. Alfredo Bengzon to speak out, too, and to compare this massive exporting of labor to the trade in body parts. As our Filipinos leave, we become a nation dismembered, much like the poor who sell vital body organs.

My main concern is the way overseas work has totally changed, well, distorted, our priorities. Our national development plans seem to hinge on this export. Business establishments aim for the returning overseas worker, and their families, for their market—everyone else seems too poor to afford to buy anything. Many of our schools have become mass assembly lines for a global labor market. And, most sadly, families now tell their kids, "You have to at least finish high school so that someday you can work abroad."

Finding the stars

Our plenary talks at Ateneo had started out with a prayer written by South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It was appropriately entitled "Disturb us, Lord," calling on God to stir the spirit "when we are too pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have become true because we dreamed too little; when we have arrived in safety because we sailed too close to the shore…when because of the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when, having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity." The prayer dares us to be bold, to venture out to the seas during a storm so that, "losing sight of land, we shall find the stars."

During the open forum, someone asked, "How will we find those stars?"

Maybe poverty, because it is so overwhelming lulls us into collective denial of our problems. If we are to chart our own national destiny it is time we put up signs that read, "Please do disturb."

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Worth telling over and over

I WRITE to share with you the wonderful story of an honest, good-hearted man who, I understand, is the quality assurance section head of Nissan in Laguna.

Last Sept. 5, I was at the Alabang Town Center. Without my knowing it, my wallet fell out of my pants' pocket. The wallet contained important documents, my driver's license included. It also contained a number of one-hundred US dollar bills and some Philippine peso bills—a tidy amount, so to speak, that could go a long way these days.

An angel here on earth, named Emmanuel Santos, got to find the wallet and lost no time in bringing it to the Alabang Town Center Office where I was able to retrieve it.

Cheers to Mr. Santos! May his tribe increase! He is another Filipino who does our country proud and whose story is worth telling over and over again.

—GILBERT L. AMANSEC,
PO Box 3873,
Makati Central Post Office,
Makati City 1278

Not among the highest paid

WE would like to issue this correction in connection with the recently published list of the top 100 highest paid GOCC executives. (PDI, 9/16/04)

Rizalino S. Navarro, chair of the Clark Development Corp., was inadvertently mentioned in the Commission on Audit report as No. 76 with a compensation of P2,140,124 for the year 2002. His compensation was actually much lower; it did not even qualify him to be anywhere among the top 100 highest paid GOCC executives.

We wish to extend also our apologies to Navarro for this error.

—JUANITO G. ESPINO JR.,
assistant commissioner,
Commission on Audit,
Commonwealth Avenue,
Quezon City

THE LIST was provided by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin during the Senate investigation.—Ed.

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On Revilla's appointment as head of PEA

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THIS is the first time that I fully agree with former President Joseph Estrada questioning the qualifications of former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. to head the Public Estates Authority (PEA).

Revilla lacks qualifications and has done almost nothing spectacular while in the Senate, and I can see that President Macapagal-Arroyo is blind to this and she has just shown a perfect example of patronage politics.—**Rey Infante, San Francisco, via e-mail**

* * *

Estrada should not have made any comment on Revilla's appointment as chair of the PEA. I know that Revilla is not the best person for the position but I'm not sure about his qualifications. I also have doubts about his ability to head the office. But hearing Estrada's comment, "*Susmaryosep, wala na bang iba* (Is there no one else)?" really made me laugh. He should have asked the same question before he asked Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president. Why did he think Poe was a good presidential candidate? What qualifications did he have? And he also should have asked himself about his qualifications before he ran for the presidency. And now he's got the nerve to question other people's integrity. Look at yourself first before you judge other people.—**Rhodora Leonor, Southampton, United Kingdom, via e-mail**

* * *

I think many Filipinos were relieved as I was when Ramon Revilla Sr. finished his stint at the Senate. But now comes the news that he has been appointed chair of the PEA board. I can understand that he was elected as senator because of his popularity. (He used to be an actor.) After paying for his "services" at the Senate for a long period of time with taxpayers' money, are we going to pay him again at the PEA? When do we ever learn?—**Bella M. Villanueva, 125 Kalbaryo St., Kalumpang, Marikina City, via e-mail**

* * *

Estrada frowns upon the appointment of his friend Revilla to the PEA. We fully agree with him. What track record or measure of competence can Revilla speak of? Why not appoint Revilla to head the committee on population development instead? This is the pits. An appointing power that persists in insulting and foisting upon the Filipinos incompetent, recycled, rent-seeking and selfish politicians, friends and cohorts. Enough!—**Diego Torres, Suite 302, Our Home Condominium, Malakas cor. Matulungin Sts., Central, 1100 Quezon City, vie e-mail**

* * *

My very faint hope that President Arroyo would be sincere and serious enough to save the country from fiscal crisis was doused when I read this news. It is clear to me now and to the Filipino people that this President would rather play with fire and has no qualms about throwing our nation into hell. What logic did this woman use to conclude that this B-movie actor has adequate knowledge in the mathematics of addition such that he could competently total the amounts that were lost to corruption in the PEA? This President is a joke!—**Jose Octaviano, Toronto, Canada, via e-mail**

* * *

What is happening to this country? It's bad enough that our countrymen vote incompetent leaders into the Senate. So we have actors who turn the Senate hall into their own studio, and politicians who would rather be actors on the Senate floor. But to appoint a clearly incompetent person to a government agency? It's truly absurd. The former actor-senator—whose only notable contribution to Philippine law consists of authoring a law allowing illegitimate children to use their father's surname (probably because he has many of them, around 70, by some reckoning)—is simply not fit to run a government agency. Forget about political accommodation, if indeed the appointment was such. Just think about the capability and capacity of this person to lead a graft-laden agency. His *agimat* (talisman) did not help him at the Senate, and it won't help him at the PEA.—**Noel del Rosario, Makati City, via e-mail**

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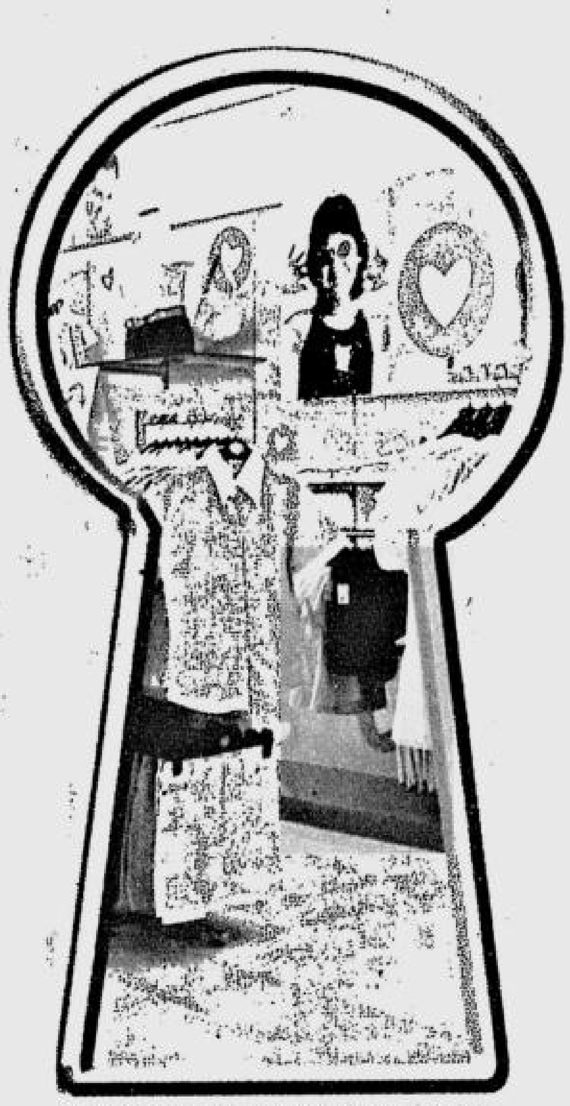

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Troopers kill 9 NPA rebels in clash

DAVAO CITY—Members of the Scout Rangers and Army soldiers clashed with communist guerrillas in Pantukan, Compostela Valley late Wednesday, killing nine of the rebels, military and police officials reported yesterday.

One of the slain guerrillas could be a ranking rebel leader in the area, according to Supt. Jaime Morente, Compostela Valley police director.

Morente said they were exerting efforts to verify their suspicions that commander Rolando Genelza of the New People's Army's Front Committee 2, was among the dead rebels.

Col. Rodolfo Obaniana, commander of the Army's 404th Infantry Brigade, said the military could not confirm the police's suspicion as of yet.

Obaniana said he was inclined to wait for confirmation from relatives of the slain guerrillas, whose bodies had been airlifted yesterday to the Pantukan town hall.

The nine rebels were killed when their group fired on patrolling soldiers in Sitio Lantawan in Barangay Napnapan late Wednesday evening.

Obaniana said no one was hurt on the government's side.

He said the rebels fled and left behind their dead comrades.

During clearing up operations, Obaniana said soldiers recovered the bodies of the slain rebels along with high-powered firearms such as an M-60 machinegun, an M-203 grenade launcher, three M-16 Armalite rifles and an M-14 assault rifle.

The NPA has become active again in most part of the Davao provinces in recent days.

It has been blamed for various attacks including last Sunday's raid on a wood firm in San Isidro town in Davao Oriental, where three company executives were briefly held as hostages.

San Isidro town police chief Insp. Jaspe Salvani said at least 20 rebels stormed the Magdum Wood Corp. Industry around 7 p.m. on Sunday, held at gunpoint Arnold Tinaco, the company's operations manager, and fellow officials Francis Paro and Arnold Villanueva.

Salvani said the rebels forced the officials to open up the company's armory, took away several firearms and then fled.

Aside from conducting raids against the military and private companies, authorities said the rebel group has also been intensifying its activities such as extortion and liquidation of suspected spies.

The latest victim was a Mandaya farmer in Caraga in Davao Oriental, whom the rebels gunned down on Friday last week.

Davao Oriental police, chief Supt. Catalino Cuy said Celso Pandili, 46, of Barangay Santiago, was with his family inside their house when several rebels came and shot him dead. *Anthony Allada with reports from Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Prosecutor held for lost evidence . . .

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation here yesterday arrested an assistant city prosecutor who was charged at the Sandiganbayan with negligence for the loss of 248.2 grams of shabu.

It was the second time Fiscal Rosendo Brillantes of the Cebu City prosecutor's office was ordered arrested in two days. The first was after he failed to put up the recommended P70,000 bail bond the other day.

Brillantes was arrested Wednesday after the NBI received a copy of the arrest warrant issued by the fourth division of the anti-graft court. He was freed on the same day.

But NBI 7 Director Reynaldo Esmeralda said he learned yesterday that the court was not able to issue a release order, prompting him to direct his agents yesterday to arrest anew the prosecutor.

Brillantes, however, was able to put up a property bond yesterday morning for his temporary liberty. He was also able to secure a release order from the executive judge of the Cebu Regional Trial Court.

The prosecutor is facing two criminal charges for alleged malversation of public property and violation of the anti-graft law. Associate Justice Gregory Ong set the bail bond at P40,000 and P30,000 respectively for the two cases.

The cases followed the loss of the illegal drugs, which served as evidence against a suspected drug pusher, while they were in his custody.

Brillantes received the evidence on Nov. 17, 2000 as proved by then prosecutor Rustico Paderanga. The loss of the prohibited drugs was discovered only on Feb. 16, 2001. The drugs were placed in a steel cabinet where the lock was found to be defective.

Brillantes yesterday told reporters he would file a petition before the Court of Appeals contesting the finding of the Visayas-Ombudsman.

. . . another for extortion

SAN FERNANDO CITY—National Bureau of Investigation agents on Tuesday arrested a lawyer of the provincial prosecutor's office while allegedly receiving bribe money from a man who has a pending criminal case.

Julio Tecan, 54, first assistant provincial prosecutor and a resident of Sudipen town, was arrested as he was receiving marked money from Reynaldo Callejo, 33, in a burger stand in Balaoan town.

Callejo, a Criminal Investigation Detention Group agent, earlier filed a complaint with the NBI against Tecan, who allegedly demanded P100,000 in exchange for the dismissal of Callejo's robbery-holdup case at the sala of Judge Roberto Cawed of the regional trial court here.

Callejo said he agreed to pay the amount but on an installment basis. He initially gave Tecan P1,600 on July 26 in Sudipen and another P3,000 on Aug. 18 in front of the Justice Hall in Barangay Sevilla here.

Callejo also claimed that Tecan again asked for P15,000 to be paid in Balaoan. Callejo agreed and met Tecan to deliver the money at the burger stand.

Policronio Pal-pallatoc, NBI executive officer, said Tecan did not resist arrest. The NBI agents took Tecan to Metro Manila on Tuesday night for inquest. He will be charged with violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The case came from an illegal drug operation that Callejo and another CIDG agent, Juanito Gaerlan, conducted last year in Bacnotan town.

The agents chanced upon Nestor Tabor, a *jueteng* collector, whom they arrested. But Callejo and Gaerlan were instead charged with robbery by a Teofilo Ortiza, a suspected *jueteng* operator. Ortiza, police said, was killed by unidentified gunmen last July.

Callejo is out on bail while Gaerlan is detained at the La Union provincial jail. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Cargo firm complains of ATO mishandling of flight at Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Air Transportation Office in Clark's Diosdado Macapagal International Airport allegedly mishandled a flight of the courier giant UPS on the night of Sept. 16, prompting the American cargo forwarding company to complain.

An ATO source said a non-rated air traffic controller (ATC) "made the mistake of directing the pilot of the UPS cargo plane to do a fast than a gradual descent" at the still radar-less DMIA.

The instruction to approach the runway was apparently reversed. "*Pina-akyat ulit* (It was made to do an ascend again)," the source said.

The operations and legal departments of UPS declined to comment on the incident.

Aritake Hidenori, UPS Philippines managing director, could not be reached at press time.

Narciso Sayana Jr., chief of the ATO in Clark, said he had no information on the complaint by UPS.

"No such incident happened," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Thursday.

Sayana admitted though that non-rated ATCs trained at the DMIA's approach control service (APP). They work with rated ATCs, he said.

The incident, he said, was unlikely to happen because supervisors always oversee the teams of rated and non-rated ATCs working on day and night shifts.

He volunteered to review the flight logbooks.

If the incident were true, this could be the second time that the APP was left without a rated ATC.

On June 30, ATO sources said not one rated ATC guided the aircraft approaching the DMIA.

The APP was left in the hands of non-rated personnel assigned at the aerodrome tower.

This occurred on the heels of supposed infighting at the ATO over who should attend the radar control and operations training in Italy. The radar project is worth $10 million.

ATO chief, retired Gen. Nilo Jatico, deployed a team of seven certified ATCs to the DMIA on July 1 when President Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet officials held their first meeting in Clark, arriving there through a plane and helicopters.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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3 men assault policeman

BATANGAS CITY—Three men were arrested here after they assaulted a policeman and tried to grab the policeman's Armalite rifle. Cesar Garcia, Michael Garcia and Ruben Garcia were taken to Bataan City police office after Cesar allegedly fired a 9 mm pistol into the air. Cesar allegedly fired the gun as SPO1 Dominador Buela approached the group to arrest Cesar for illegal possession of firearm. The three Garcias were subjected to paraffin tests. *Arlene Javier Ona, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Man shoots wife dead

NASUGBU, Batangas—A man shot dead his wife after a heated argument in Barangay Kaylaway here. Police said Dominador Relado Jr. shot his wife, Rowena at the height of an argument on Tuesday. Relado Jr. allegedly used a .45 cal. pistol in shooting his wife. He is a security guard employed by the Colt Security Services Inc., according to police. Relado Jr. is now detained at the Nasugbu police office. His wife was taken to the Apacible Memorial District Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. SPO1 Godofredo Magadia said Relado Jr. shot his wife twice. Police confiscated the gun he used, six magazines and bullets. *Arlene Javier Ona, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cell phone thief nabbed

LUCENA CITY—A traffic aide arrested a cell phone snatcher Tuesday after the suspect was positively identified by one of his past victims. A police report identified the suspect as Romeo Tobongbanua, 45, and a resident of Phase 1, Lita Subdivision, Tayabas, Quezon. Investigation said the suspect was standing at the corner of Merchan and Gomez Streets, apparently waiting for his next victim, when he was spotted by Maria Sheena Tan, a medical representative, as the one who robbed her of her Nokia 6600 mobile phone unit inside a passenger jeepney last week. Tan sought the assistance of Jose Laguidao who was then manning the traffic. The traffic officer immediately accosted the suspect who was not able to resist arrest. The police said Tobongbanua is also the prime suspect in several cell phone robberies in this city and neighboring towns. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Quezon towns have no fire trucks

LUCENA CITY—At least 30 out of 40 local fire department units in Quezon do not have fire trucks of their own, the office of the Bureau of Fire Protection disclosed here after an inspection. Chief Insp. Josepito Albos, Quezon provincial fire marshal, however, explained that they had long requested the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to allot funds for at least one fire truck for each municipality to be derived from the unused savings of the towns' annual calamity fund. Albos also sought the assistance of the province's four congressional representatives to help fund the acquisition of four ambulances for emergency use during man-made or natural calamities. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA gunmen shoot, injure 4

LUCENA CITY—At least two suspected members of a New People's Army hit squad gunned down a former Army soldier, an ex-member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) and two others in Barangay Lutucan Bata, Sariaya, Quezon. The victims survived and only suffered gunshot injuries. Police identified the four victims as Joel Bobadilla, ex-Cafgu; Nestor Mendoza, a former Army soldier; Rico Bico and Leslie Mendoza. Reports said the victims were watching television when the suspects barged into their home and immediately fired at the group and fled after the shooting. Bobadilla was hit in the right knee, the former soldier in the thigh, Bico in the chest and Leslie in the left elbow. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Tacloban health execs fear loss of docs to greener pastures abroad

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The city health officer has joined other health officials in the country in expressing alarm over losing government doctors to lucrative jobs abroad, with the recent departure of one of his doctors for a job in the United States.

Dr. Jaime Opinion, the city health officer, said he feared that the delivery of health services in the city would suffer as some members of the medical staff of the City Health Office (CHO) were now starting to leave public service in favor of good paying jobs abroad.

Just last month, one of the city government's doctors had left for the United States to work, further depleting the number of doctors working at the CHO, Opinion said.

Opinion told the INQUIRER that with only six doctors working at the CHO, the doctor per persons ratio mandated by the Magna Carta for Health Workers is no longer being met.

"Under the Magna Carta, the ratio should be one doctor per 20,000 people. With a population of close to 200,000 inhabitants, Tacloban needs at least 10 doctors," Opinion said.

With one city government doctor choosing to look for greener pasture abroad, and with the impending retirement of Dr. Ramon de la Cruz this year, the number of doctors in the city would now be just five. De la Cruz is the most senior among the doctors at the CHO.

"And some of them are also thinking of leaving government service," Opinion told the INQUIRER, referring to the remaining doctors at the CHO.

For several years now, doctors and nurses have been leaving the country in droves to seek good and high-paying job as nurses and caregivers in different countries, notably in the United States and Canada.

He said health programs like immunization "would definitely be hampered."

He said that the main reason doctors are leaving public service was low pay.

He said they could not also ask the city government to increase their salaries since they are covered by the Salary Standardization Law, which puts a cap on their monthly pay.

Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo Romualdez said he could not do anything on the demand of these city doctors for salary increase. "All I can do is to persuade them and answer their patriotic duty by working here in the country," he said.

Doctors in government service receive an average of P15,000 a month. On the other hand, a doctor who works as a nurse in the United States could earn at least P200,000 a month.

Bataan solon opposes highway design change

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Bataan Rep. Antonino Roman is opposing the realignment of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP) being proposed by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, saying the move would weaken the economic growth of his province.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Roman said the changes in design, which would bypass Bataan, will "practically exclude the province from becoming a part of the economic benefits that can be derived from the development of the Subic-Clark corridor."

Roman said if Neri would insist on his plan to change the original plan for the 94.5-km expressway, the secretary would deprive the people of Bataan of the opportunity to secure their places in the future "economic revolution" that the construction of the expressway would bring about.

He said the Bataan peninsula's "stunted" growth over the past years could be traced to its unfavorable geographic location.

"(The National Economic and Development Authority's) plan to bypass the province is totally unfair and grossly places us at a disadvantage," Roman said.

He said the plan would lay to waste "everything that we have prepared over the past years." "I don't think there's justice in that realignment scheme," he said.

Neri has proposed that a straight path would connect Subic and Clark through the mountains of Bataan and away from the populated areas, contrary to the original plan that it would pass through Dinalupihan town in Bataan.

Roman said rerouting the alignment through the mountains would bring negative effects to the economic and financial viability of the highway.

He cited the data provided by Japanese consultants in charge of the road's design showing that the construction of the highway through Bataan's mountains would substantially increase the cost of the project as expensive earth moving activities and elevated spans running across deep gullies would be required.

"What Neri is proposing would not only isolate Bataan further, but based on the latest cost estimates, it will make the project more expensive and will cause further delay in the implementation of the much-awaited expressway project," Roman said.

He said the proposed realignment would damage thickly forested areas and would cut through Mt. Malasimbo in Bataan.

"As socioeconomic planning secretary, Neri should instead make sure that economic developments benefit the most number of people," he said.

"Can you imagine, destroying Mt. Malasimbo?" Roman said.

"Based on our previous dialogues with the concerned government agencies, particularly with Neda, the project proponent Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), and the Japanese consultants, the role of Neda is limited to ascertaining the economic viability of the project," said Roman.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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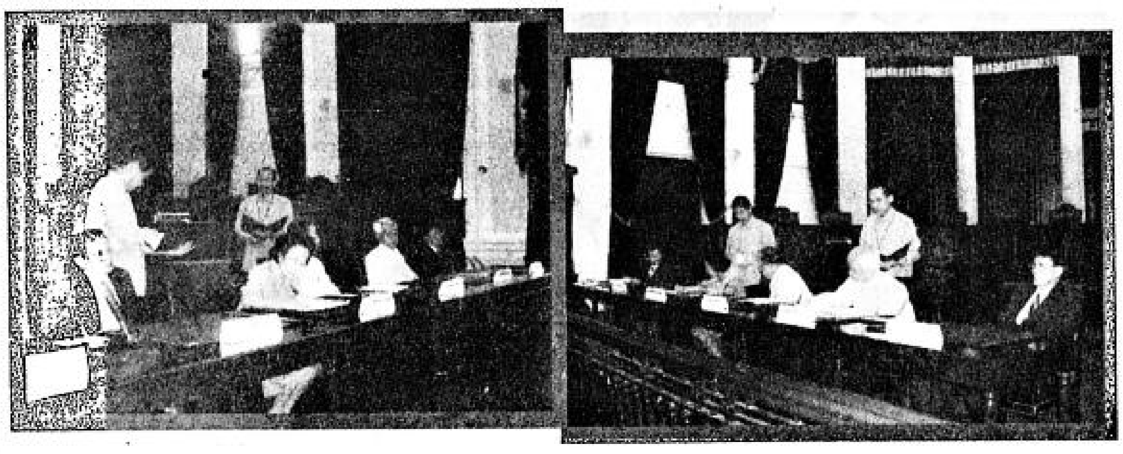

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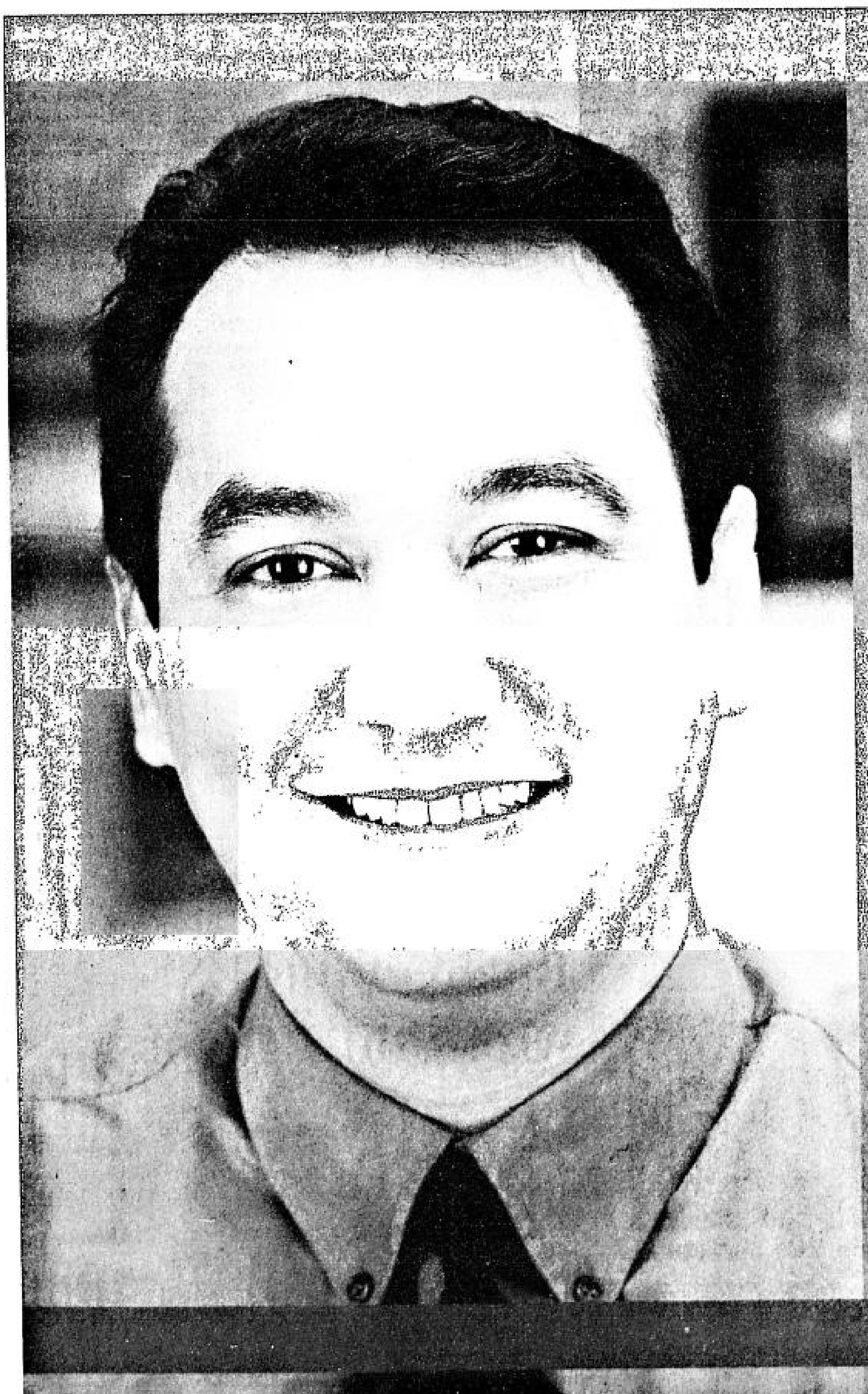

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IMELDA: With a gun you can kill a person . . . but the press can kill him beyond infinity.

Imelda defends hubby: Not a dictator, not a violator of human rights

By Christine O. Avendaño

TRUE to her dramatic bent, Imelda Marcos stole the thunder from Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia during a Manila Overseas Press Club forum Wednesday night.

Ferdinand Marcos' widow, one of the guests at the affair held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City, made an emotional defense of her husband who, she said, had been unfairly tagged as a dictator and human rights violator all these years.

She rose after a question was thrown to Drilon and De Venecia concerning the government's supposed efforts to put closure on "the so-called enemies of the state" like the Marcoses and jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Clad in a black and silver dress, Imelda prefaced her statement with: "For the last 18 years, the Marcoses had about 425 cases, or more than that, and I suggest that since this is the Manila Overseas Press Club, perhaps the Marcos issue should not be looked upon in perception but rather in truth."

She pointed out that the Marcoses had not been convicted of any crime after 18 years, and said the media should help bring out the truth about her husband's dictatorship through an "audit."

After all, she said, the media constituted a "potent force."

"With a gun you can kill a person up to his brain, but the press, you can kill him beyond the grave and infinity," she said.

Imelda said the media should audit not only the Marcos years but also the 12 years comprising the administrations of Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

She said the total budget in the 20-year Marcos rule amounted to only P486 billion, compared to the budgets of more than P1 trillion and P2.3 trillion, respectively, of the Aquino and Ramos terms.

'Thieves'

Imelda suggested to reporters later that an audit be done on the Presidential Commission on Good Government as well, on what it had "taken away from the Marcoses with no convictions."

"The PCGG and the government have become the thieves," she said.

She took exception to the dictator tag on her husband and demanded to know how he could be called such when he was elected four times as president and held elections, referenda and plebiscites almost every year of his rule.

"You can fool some people all the time, but not all the people all the time," she added.

Imelda said it was Aquino who was a dictator and a "usurper" who "took power without the endorsement of the people."

"Enough is enough," she said at one point. "You know, this 18 years of continued persecution without conviction, this is more than the equal of absolution."

She lamented what she called the "total injustice" given her and her family.

Closure

Drilon told the audience that President Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials who attended the national security meeting in Malacañang early this week had agreed to put closure on issues like the Marcoses.

He said a group of "respected citizens" would be formed to suggest "measures" toward this closure.

This may be the "opportunity" of Imelda "to air her views," Drilon said.

DepEd textbook riddled with 431 'factual errors'

From page A1

Vivar, refused to accept Go's findings.

"We went page by page and we found out that usually (the supposed errors) were taken out of context," said the 75-year-old former DepEd superintendent who now teaches graduate students at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

With her three co-authors, Vivar said they took two years to finish the book. The book was first printed in 1997.

"I have never received a single complaint. And now this," Vivar told the INQUIRER on Tuesday afternoon. "Of course I stand by my book."

Vivar is also the lead author of the DepEd-approved history textbooks for the other high school levels.

Biggest supplier

The textbooks, which had English translations, were all published by Vibal Publishing Inc., at present the DepEd's biggest supplier of textbooks.

(The public school version of the textbook, however, is printed by SD Publications, a sister company of Vibal.)

Officials of the publishing firm Vibal, meanwhile, would not grant an interview.

But they supplied the INQUIRER a copy of the "open letter" of Vivar and the two surviving co-authors, Evelina Viloria and Ruth Fuentes.

In the letter, the authors dismissed as "manufactured and fabricated" the errors that Go pointed out.

"Mr. Go's letter was patently motivated by his malevolent desire to gain pecuniary interest," it said, without elaborating.

The DepEd agency in charge of textbooks evaluation also defended the textbook.

Socorro Pilor, director of the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, said she and her staff checked Go's claims and did not find anything erroneous in the textbook.

Aside from coming to the defense of the textbook, a ranking DepEd official even accused Go of "malicious intent."

"If there are mistakes, we would correct them. But he's not a concerned citizen. There's malicious intent here," Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz said.

English textbooks

He said Go was paid last year by Vibal Publishing to correct a series of its English textbooks.

"It appears that he tried to give them his 82-page notes (of errors) in exchange for something. It happened before," he said.

Services paid

Go admitted having offered his services to Vibal last year because he found gross errors in one of Vibal's textbooks, which Marian School was using.

"That's finished. Is it wrong to be paid for your services?" he said.

In his ad, Go said he would donate his 82-page critique of the Asya textbook to the DepEd.

But he said he was biding his time.

"What, I'll be doing them a favor? It's their job to correct (the book)," he said.

Bush admits US wrong on dictators

From page A1

in the Middle East in the name of stability.

"Oppression became common, but stability never arrived. We must take a different approach."

Marcos was overthrown in a bloodless popular uprising in 1986. He died in Hawaii three years later.

"There is little debate on the relationship between promoting basic human rights and the security and stability of a nation. Democratic states provide the best security for their people and their rights," Romulo said.

He said that despite previous "differences" between Manila and Washington over Iraq after President Macapagal-Arroyo recalled a military contingent to save the life of a truck driver held hostage there by Islamic militants, the Philippines backed the rebuilding of Iraq.

"This is a call that the Philippines can support, in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1546," he said, referring to a UN call for foreign help to the US-backed Iraqi interim government to restore security so democratic elections could be held next year.

"The issue of Iraq now is an issue of rebuilding. Rebuilding relations affected by differences over Iraq, and rebuilding Iraq as a country, democratic and free, at peace with itself and with its neighbors," Romulo said. *AFP*

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· Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2007 Series of 2004

'Jose Pidal' lawyer, ex-agri exec named to GSIS board

By Fe Zamora

A LAWYER who defended Jose Miguel Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, in the "Jose Pidal" scandal and a former agriculture official linked to the alleged overprice scam involving P432 million .worth of fertilizer have been named to the board of trustees of the Government Service and Insurance System.

Lawyer Jesus T. Santos and former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, a reported ally of the President's husband and who is facing graft charges in connection with the fertilizer scam, are now among the nine-member board, as posted on the GSIS website.

The new board is chaired by Bernardino Abes, a former chair of the Social Security System and former head of the Malacañang search committee.

The other new members are lawyer Jesse Andres, the legal counsel and chief of staff of Vice President Noli de Castro, and Raul Serrano, who was identified by a former board member as a brother-in-law of Senate President Franklin Drilon.

The other four members are "holdovers" from the old board whose term ended on June 30:

- Reynaldo Palmiery, a trustee and concurrent chief operating officer of the GSIS.
- Raymundo Lapating, a division superintendent of schools representing public school teachers.
- Esperanza Ocampo, representing government employees' associations.
- Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, who sits as the board's vice chair.

Each trustee receives from P60,000 to P70,000 a month in allowances and per diem, and is required to attend at least two meetings a month during the six-year fixed term, according to a former board member who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The money is nothing much, but the position can open doors for you," the source said in a phone interview.

And since it was not a full-time job, being a board member also allowed one to take on other employment, the source said.

Ms Arroyo has ordered a review of the performance of Garcia and other top officials of the GSIS amid reports of mismanagement and abuse of the state pension fund. The performance of other executives of government-owned and -controlled corporations is also under review.

Now, solon says ₱262M in GSIS artworks missing

From page A1

"We want to know whether these artworks were indeed purchased, and if these were purchased, where are they now and how come they cannot be found," Suplico said.

Libel

Garcia, whom Suplico had earlier accused of incurring P5.25 million in unliquidated cash advances, yesterday said his lawyers were preparing to charge the lawmaker with libel.

"I challenge Congressman Suplico to bring his wild accusations against GSIS officials before the proper legal forum where we can prove to the satisfaction of all parties that all of our actions were meant to benefit GSIS and its contributors," Garcia said, adding:

"It is easy for legislators like Suplico to grandstand within the halls of Congress knowing fully well that it would be difficult to hold them responsible for even the most irresponsible statements they issue while posing as representatives of the people."

Garcia said Suplico libeled him by saying that he had incurred the multimillion-peso cash advances for "questionable expenditures," and that he gave his sister and executive assistant, Carolyn Garcia Empemano, a huge salary at the GSIS.

"I did not command that she be given this salary level. Whatever she may have received was based on the salary levels prevailing at the GSIS even before I came in," he said.

Earlier this week, Suplico filed Resolution No. 726 calling for a congressional inquiry into the alleged mismanagement and misuse of funds by Garcia and other GSIS officials.

The resolution was co-sponsored by NPC Representatives Marcelino Libanan (Eastern Samar), Eduardo Veloso (Leyte), and Benasing Macarambon Jr. (Lanao del Sur).

GARCIA: I'll sue him for libel

SUPLICO: Where are the artworks?

But Suplico said the list of co-sponsors had since grown to include Representatives Clavel Martinez (Ind., Cebu), Renato Magtubo (Partido ng Manggagawa), Ronaldo Zamora (PnM, San Juan), Joel Villanueva (Cibac), Gilbert Remulla (NP, Cavite), Florencio Noel (An Waray), Abraham Kahlil Mitra (LP, Palawan), and Ernie Clarete (NPC, Misamis Occidental).

It's Veloso

Congressman Veloso admitted to the INQUIRER that he had visited Garcia's office at the GSIS to inquire about the reinsurance industry.

But he said it was just a casual meeting intended for him to know more about reinsurance because his wife happened to be in the business.

Garcia claimed on Wednesday that one of the first four signatories to the resolution had come to his office to lobby in behalf of reinsurers who wanted to corner the multibillion-peso reinsurance business of the GSIS.

He mentioned no name but said the lawmaker had offered him a bribe provided the GSIS retained only 10 percent of National Power Corp.'s insurance cover and reinsured 90 percent. He turned down the offer, he said.

Garcia continued to play coy yesterday, but said he would soon name the lawmakers in question.

"I want each one of them to deny so the people would know who's lying," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

But Veloso said: "Garcia is just diverting the issue by linking the visit to the mess that he is in now. Let him answer for the 25 artworks that are now missing. It is legally and morally wrong for the GSIS to purchase artworks *eh hindi na nga nila mapautang ang kanilang* members (when it cannot even grant loans to its members).

"My conscience is clean and I'm ready to face the music if he goes public. Should I be afraid of him just because I met with him in the past? Why does he not answer the issue frontally?"

'That's the question'

Veloso said many other congressmen had also paid visits to government officials to discuss issues affecting the House of Representatives.

He insisted that he did not pressure Garcia or offered the latter a bribe in behalf of reinsurance companies.

Asked if he had indeed lobbied in behalf of the reinsurance companies, Veloso replied: "Whether you ask for it or what have you, *pinagbigyan ba niya* (did he grant it)? That's the question."

Suplico said he was not aware that Veloso had visited Garcia when he filed Resolution No. 726.

Both Suplico and Veloso insisted that contrary to Garcia's claim, the COA had not cleared him of cash advances in 2001.

Veloso said Garcia should explain the vouchers for cash advances prepared by his sister, which showed him both requesting and approving the amounts.

"*Saan ka naman nakakita ng ganyan* (Such a practice is unheard of)," Suplico said.

Suplico added that the one-page certification presented by Garcia, signed by the supervising auditor of the GSIS and saying that he had "no outstanding cash advances as of Sept. 22," did not come from the COA main office.

He said he would call COA officials to testify at a public hearing on the alleged fund misuse.

Reform measures

Garcia called on Suplico to "stop hiding behind the cloak of parliamentary immunity while trying to destroy the reputation of other people."

He said his reform measures at the GSIS had enabled Napocor to save at least P500 million in premium payments in 2003 alone, earning him the anger of the reinsurance brokers.

Garcia reiterated that a "cabal of reinsurance operators" was behind the alleged smear campaign against him and other GSIS officials.

He also said the irregular activities of private insurance companies were put to a stop when he made transparent the awarding of the insurance coverage of government properties.

But Suplico said the GSIS Employees Union, along with other government employees' unions, would hold a mass action against Garcia at noon today in front of the GSIS main office on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

According to Suplico, Garcia has withheld permission for the rally despite Civil Service rules allowing it.

Suplico also said Garcia had ordered the GSIS security department to bar union president Albert Velasco from entering the premises, in defiance of a Court of Appeals temporary restraining order allowing the latter's reinstatement.

Philandering lawyer disbarred

From page A1

Taking the side of the complainant, Dantes' wife Emma, the high court pointed out that the lawyer actually engaged in illicit relations with not just one but two different women in the course of the marriage.

According to Emma's testimony, the two instances of infidelity happened during the five years that she worked abroad as a domestic helper to provide for their three children, which Dantes failed to do as head of the family.

She said ...

Emma said that she and Dantes were married on Jan. 19, 1979, when her husband was a fourth year law student. To make ends meet, she engaged in "buy and sell" while she and her husband lived with his mother in Balintawak, Quezon City. Soon, they were frequently quarreling due to his extra-marital affairs.

In 1983, Emma decided to bring their children to her mother in San Fernando, Pampanga, so she could work in earnest. From 1986 to 2001, she worked as a maid abroad.

By the time she returned to the Philippines, Dantes was living with another woman. Confronted about it, he coldly told Emma that he would rather live with his mistress.

To bolster her case, Emma presented to the high court the birth certificates of Dantes' three children with his two mistresses.

He said ...

Dantes claimed that he and Emma agreed to separate in 1983, and that he saw Emma again only in 2001. He insisted that he supported his children during the years of her absence, and that he in fact bought a property in Pampanga for his two sons.

He told the court that Emma had filed the complaint just to force him to remit 70 percent of his current monthly salary to her.

The high court was not moved.

"(Dantes) has made a mockery of marriage, which is a sacred institution demanding respect and dignity," the tribunal said. "If the practice of law is to remain an honorable profession and to attain its basic ideals, those enrolled in its ranks should not only master its tenets and principles but should also, in their lives, accord continuing fidelity to them."

In short, the court said, "as far as the general public is concerned, the requirement of good moral character [for lawyers] is of much greater import than the possession of legal learning."

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Baguio City folk attempt to break the record for the longest raisin bread in the world. The bread was put on display at the Melvin Jones football grounds in Burnham Park.

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ADVT

Taxi fare hike takes effect in October

By Clarissa S. Batino

BY NEXT month, the flagdown rate of taxis will be P30 for the first half kilometer.

"We are drafting the order for the taxi fare hike. I think their request for additional flag down is reasonable," said Maria Elena Bautista, chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

Bautista estimated that the order would be out early next month and would be in effect by the third or fourth week of October.

"We need a 15-day public notice, so the fare hike would likely take effect late next month," she said.

However, while the LTFRB is amenable to a P5 hike in the taxi flagdown rate of P25, it may not approve the other components of the petition of cab drivers and operators.

Taxi drivers and operators are seeking an additional 50 centavos on top of the P2 for each kilometer beyond the first 500 meters.

Not all approved

Bautista said, "Their other requests would not be approved as is."

In exchange for the increase, taxis must change their meters into the one that could issue receipts.

With the shift to receipt-issuing meters, overcharging could be avoided, the LTFRB said.

But more importantly, it would allow the government to collect the proper taxes from taxi operators.

A new meter costs between P7,000 to P8,000 each and has to be registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue just like cash registers used by department stores and groceries.

Once the meters are changed and registered with the BIR, then the government could strictly impose a 3 percent gross receipts tax on taxi operators and this is estimated to generate an additional P2.2 billion in collection yearly.

The LTFRB had issued the circular requiring taxis to issue receipts as early as August 2003.

Once the taxi fare increase is approved, the only pending fare hike petition would be the ones that came from the FX or vans.

She did not elaborate on the request but stressed that FX-owners and drivers, especially those operating without a franchise, should refrain from increasing their fares.

"*Walang karapatang magtaas ng pasahe ang mga FX, lalo na ang mga kolorum*," said the LTFRB chief.

Current rates

The taxi fare hike was sought by the Association of Taxi Operators and Drivers in Metro Manila or Atomm.

Currently, taxis impose an additional charge of P2 for every 300 succeeding meters and P1 for every minute of waiting time.

The LTFRB allowed jeeps and regular buses to increase minimum fare by P1.50 and P2 starting June 12. Taxi fare had not increased since year 2000, when the flag down went up by P5 from P20.

Bautista said that before the taxi fare hike could take effect, the units must first have their meters calibrated by the LTFRB. "This process is like getting a fare matrix from us," she said.

Transport Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said the new taxi metering system would help get rid of the colorum units, improve the service of the taxis, enable commuters to use the receipt as reimbursement, and give the government additional income.

The BIR said the government collects a very small amount of tax from the transport sector, including taxis.

Under the LTFRB circular dated 2003, the receipt should state the name of taxi, address, telephone number, tax identification number, plate number, color-coded body number, date, time when the passenger embarks and disembarks, distance, waiting time and amount of fare in pesos.

P1,000 fine

Operators who fail to comply with the order will be meted a fine of P1,000 or possible suspension of his certificate of public convenience.

Commuters using the taxi could have a receipt that they can use to reimburse.

Drivers, on the other hand, could also benefit since they could already track down earning accurately and use the information as basis in removing the boundary method.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1515 Series of 2004

NBI has new witness in Blanca case

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has secured the statement of the second of two new witness in the Nida Blanca slay case. The new testimony could be used as basis for a new bid to extradite key suspect Rod Strunk.

An NBI official who requested anonymity said that the witness, a man whom he refused to name, gave his sworn statement to NBI investigators recently.

This new witness claimed that he was one of several people tasked to do surveillance on Blanca a few weeks before she was found dead, according to the NBI official.

The NBI official, who was privy to the case, said the witness and his companions stayed outside the Atlanta Center in San Juan when they were watching the actress. The source refused to provide any more details.

Blanca murder history

Blanca (Dorothy Jones in real life), was found dead inside her car at the Atlanta Center's parking lot on Nov. 7, 2001.

A suspect, Philip Medel, came out and admitted knowledge of the murder. He then tagged Strunk, who was arrested by the police.

But Medel later recanted his testimony against Strunk, claiming that the police tortured him into pointing to Blanca's husband as the killer of the actress.

Police freed Strunk, who then flew to the United States.

Ensuing efforts by the government to have him extradited failed after the United States District Court decided that the reasons presented by the Department of Justice were insufficient.

The NBI source said they were evaluating the statements of at least two new witnesses to determine whether these could be used as basis to refile the extradition case against Strunk.

Mindoro lass accuses fiscal of molestation

By Marinel R. Cruz

A 15-YEAR-OLD student in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, filed a sexual harassment case against a Mindoro provincial prosecutor after the official allegedly molested her last week.

The complaint against prosecutor Nicolas Señoren was filed before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Manila on Sept. 15, the day after the victim was allegedly molested at the prosecutor's office in Calapan City.

According to Amy (not her real name), she went to Señoren's office on Sept. 14, at 2 p.m., to accompany her elder sister Jocelyn (not her real name).

Jocelyn wanted to "follow up" a rape case she filed against three assailants last February, said Amy.

The victim is the key witness to her sister's rape case, which had been assigned to Señoren's office.

"(Amy and Jocelyn) asked the fiscal if they still needed to hire a lawyer for the case. The fiscal told them they didn't have to," the victim's father recounted to the INQUIRER last Wednesday. "But he said he wanted to speak with the witness by himself and asked (Jocelyn) to step out of the room."

Amy said Señoren asked Jocelyn to leave because he did not want Jocelyn to "influence" Amy's answers to his questions.

"When we were alone, he asked me to stand in front of him and show him where the three men 'touched' my sister. He then started touching my private parts," the victim said in Filipino. "I ran out of the room as soon as I broke free from his grasp."

Suspect in Taguig murder arrested

By Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICE arrested yesterday morning the alleged mastermind in the killing of a Muslim leader in Taguig.

The suspect Abas Gaca, 54, was identified by the victim's son who was with his father, Hadji Samier Esmael, when the latter was gunned down in front of their house on Maguindanao Street, Maharlika Village, Monday afternoon.

Esmael was the chief of the civilian component of the Philippine National Police's anti-illegal drugs campaign and also the president of the Council of Elders of the Southern Police District.

Taguig police Chief Supt. Reyes said that the son, with his relatives, unexpectedly showed up at the station and pointed to Gaca as one of the six suspects who killed his father.

Shaking in fear

"The son was shaking in fear upon seeing the suspect," Reyes said.

The mobile unit was conducting routine patrol when they chanced upon the suspect brandishing his .45 caliber pistol in front of his house in Bahay-Pagkakaisa, Maharlika Village.

The suspect, who claimed to be the chair of the Bantay Bayan Foundation Maharlika chapter, presented to the police photocopies of expired applications for a gun license and a permit to transport a firearm.

Police said that according to the suspect, he was carrying a firearm because of threats he had been receiving.

Confiscated from Gaca were a .45-caliber pistol and a gun magazine with 16 live ammunition.

But sources in Maharlika Village said Gaca's connection with the Bantay Bayan had been revoked due to his supposed illegal activities.

The suspect, according to the source, was in charge of the Bantay Bayan chapter in Quiapo 2, the relocation site of squatters from the Quiapo area.

DOTC seeks MRT fare hike

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TRANSPORTATION department yesterday urged Malacañang to approve as soon as possible a P10 increase in the fares of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 and the Light Railway Transit (LRT) Line 1 and 2.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the government had been heavily subsidizing the operations of the railway agencies and the P10-increase was urgently needed.

MRT 3 and the two lines of the LRT charge each passenger as much as P15. The railway agencies sought a fare hike before the May elections and were expecting to implement the increase by August.

But the board of the National Economic and Development Authority, chaired by President Arroyo, had yet to approve the increase.

As this developed, Maria Elena Bautista, chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board yesterday said operators of air-conditioned buses decided to extend the P1.50 fare cut by another week.

Second blast victim dies

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE BLAST that killed a 4-year-old boy during a fiesta in San Mateo, Rizal, also claimed the life of the boy's father Wednesday night.

Christopher Andal, 29, succumbed to wounds that punctured his lungs while confined at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center (ARMC) at about 8 p.m.

Andal, his three sons and several other people were rushed to the ARMC before dawn Wednesday after falling victim to a bomb blast in Barangay Dulong Bayan, San Mateo, at around midnight Tuesday.

Hours later, Andal's son, John Paul, died while being treated for blast wounds.

Andal's two other sons, Mark John, 7, and Jerry Mae, 2, are still confined at the ARMC.

Meanwhile, police said they already have the "face" of the man suspected of hurling the bomb that also wounded 20 others.

Police said they would be releasing the artist's sketch of the suspect soon.

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The 8th Year of the National Urban Pest Control Week!

4th Week of September, 2004 • Per Presidential Proclamation 900/s-97

MESSAGES

I greet the officers and members of the **National Committee on Urban Pest Control** as you celebrate the 8th *National Urban Pest Control Week.*

Your participation is important and necessary to the success of our national aspirations for a better quality of life. May this event with the theme, *"Promote Philippine- Chinese Friendship Through Technology, Exhibition and Conference"* inspire you all to upgrade your services and competencies for the welfare of the people that you serve.

Thus, I commend your organization for its firm dedication and response to the challenge to elevate the practice of your chosen profession to global standards. I wish the continued success of this and your other endeavors. May this event further strengthen your commitment to work with the Administration in the implementation of our 10-point agenda designed to improve the quality of our people's lives.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I welcome the participants to the *1st Philippines-Chinese Urban Pest Control, and Air and Water Sanitation* to be held by the **National Committee on Urban Pest Control** on September 20-21, 2004.

This international exhibition and conference will be held in celebration of the 8th Urban Pest Control Week on September 20-26, 2004. The theme, *"Promote Philippine-Chinese Friendship through Technology, Exhibition & Conference,"* will forge closer ties between the two countries. China and the Philippines have a time-honored friendly as well as trading relationship that is rooted in history and reinforced by their common interests in international and regional affairs. They have established diplomatic relations and carried out a high level of contacts, exchanges and cooperation that are mutually beneficial to them.

Noteworthy is the resolve of the NCUPC and other local government units in continually strengthening campaigns for a better, cleaner and healthier environment. The event will not only promote, friendship, cooperation, technology transfer and understanding between the two countries, but also heightens ecological awareness to keep our environment pest and garbage free. Collective and collaborative efforts in the proper and effective management of wastes are indeed instrumental for social development and economic progress.

I exhort the NCUPC to continue this great endeavor, which contributes to nation building.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO

Mabuhay!

My warmest greetings to the **National Committee on Urban Pest Control** as well as to our fellow pest control advocates and participants to the 8th **National Urban Pest Control Week**, with the theme, ***"Promote Philippine-Chinese Friendship Through Technology, Exhibition & Conference"*** on September 20-26 2004

I laud your efforts to promote proper management of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes to solve our perennial garbage and pest problems.

Likewise, your genuine intention to share experiences and technologies in urban pests control and water and air sanitation through exhibits, fellowships and conferences are highly commendable.

I exhort you all to strengthen your commitment to live up to your vision and misson. It is my fervent hope that we continue working together towards a pest and disease-free Philippines.

Congratulations and more power!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City Mayor

The 1st Philippines-China International Exhibit and Conference on Urban Pest Control and Environmental/Air/Water Sanitation

MAPECON Philippines, Inc. has recently dashed past Communists' barriers and successfully established an extremely wide market for the Philippines in the People's Republic of China (PROC).

MAPECON is easily the Philippines' premier pest-control corporation and producer of Activated Carbon, Bio-Activated Carbon, "Green Charcoal" (Filipino-technology solid fuel recycled from biodegradable wastes), "Catrus Fruits" (functional decorative items out of Activated Carbon and "Green Charcoal" by-products), Aero-Hydro Stoves (customized for "Green Charcoal"), enviro-products, and an array of coconut products, including the coconut tree's Health wonder, the "Virgin Oil." It is a 100-percent Filipino corporation founded more than 42 years ago by a now multi-awarded Filipino inventor and entrepreneur and outstanding Constitutional Convention Delegate, Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr.

Listed as one of the Philippines' most successful private corporations, MAPECON grew from a single-proprietorship with a capital of only 400 pesos in 1961 to a multimillion-peso firm that it is today, with 38 patented inventions/products, a long list of top awards from prestigious national and international award-giving bodies, and over 30 branches nationwide.

In a trade trip recently made in mainland China, augmenting the most recent state visit in China of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, MAPECON Founder Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr. who still presides actively over the corporation, and his wife, Nancy Russell-Catan, as representatives of the Philippine private sector, triumphantly forged formal Agreements for a bilateral cooperation between MAPECON Phils. and the National Termite Control Center of China, the Deqing Institute of Termite Control of China, and the Deqing Moganshan Bamboo Veneer Board Factory.

Signing the Agreements for the Chinese were Shi Yong, Head of the National Termite Control Center of China; Guo Jianqing, Director of the Deqing Institute of Termite Control of China; Dr. Mo Jianchu, Professor of Zhejiang University; and Lang Minguo, General Manager of the Deqing Moganshan Bamboo Veneer Board Factory.

The Agreements' joint ventures, which cover a working term of at least 20 years, involve an initial capital structure of not less than US$2 Million.

The Agreements center on "technology exchange and production of products," with specific provisions on "the promotion of friendship between China and the Philippines."

MAPECON's inventor-entrepreneur founder, Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr. (2nd from right, seated), signing the Agreements with the Chinese.

"With this most recent breakthrough in China, since China is a very big market for the Philippines, we are quite positive that MAPECON would also be instrumental in realizing President Arroyo's goal to create six to ten million jobs for Filipinos and to give support to at least six million Filipino entrepreneurs during her term," says MAPECON Founder Gonzalo Catan, Jr., a TOYM Awardee and a Philippine Jaycess "Most Outstanding Entrepreneur."

Since last year, similar productive trade trips have also been made by MAPECON in different countries around the globe, such as Korea, Japan, Vietnam, India, Ethiopia, Australia and the US.

Unique among private corporations, MAPECON, known for its environment-friendly pest control and enviro-products, has been endowed with government mandates, such as the Department of Health (DOH) Circluar No. 155/s-75, which has been embodied in the recent Presidential Proclamation No. 990/s-97, which, among others, tasks MAPECON to implement a nationwide Franchise-System pest control with the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC), a body organized under the Office of the President of the Philippines and presently headed by noted environmentalist Metodio Palaypay, M.D.

MAPECON's "Green Charcoal" has been specifically mentioned and institutionalized in the Clean Air Act (RA 9003), the very first law signed by Pres. Arroyo.

The implementation of the said Agreements between MAPECON and the Chinese has set out in a grand start this September in Manila in the NCUPC's "1ST Philippines-China: International Exhibit and Conference on Urban Pest Control and Environmental/Air/Water Sanitation." This two-day event (September 23 for the Exhibit and 24 for the Conference) at the Quezon Hall of the historic Philippine Columbian (PCA) building in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila, is the main highlight of the country's grand celebration of the 8th National Urban Pest Control Week, under the aegis of the NCUPC, from September 20 to 26.

The National Pest Control Week is held every fourth week of September of every year pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 990/s-97. This is also officially a part of the United Nations' Clean-up the World Month (September).

Spurred by the recent visit in China of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and MAPECON, a significant number of participants from mainland China have arrived in the Philippines to participate in the conference, among others. They represent various Chinese entities that deal with termite/pest control, solar energy, air and water purification, and the bamboo industry.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has issued DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-193, which, among others, allows all governors, city and municipal mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG regional directors and others concerned to attend or send their representatives to the said NCUPC annual conference on official time, with the expenditures chargeable to local funds.

Interested parties can still register today or right at the venue of the Conference to participate in today's conference.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and DENR Secretary Michael T. Defensor woll be among the speakers in today's conference at the PCA hall.

The Conference Secretariat may be contacted through Tel. No. 5368980, 5368982 and 5250434; Fax No. 5215645; Email: mapecon@i-manila.com.ph or Website: www.mapecon.com.

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All systems go for flood project–DPWH

By Jerome Aning

SLOW but sure.

This was the assurance of the Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday when it said it would complete 20 percent of the Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) Area Flood Control and Drainage System Improvement Project by the end of the year.

DPWH Secretary Florante Soriquez said his office is committed to finish the entire project by 2007 to help alleviate the flooding problem in the area.

Geologists and land surveyors had blamed the perennial flooding problem, which occurs not only during long periods of rain but even during high tide, for the sinking of the Camanava area.

Fish pens that used to be natural catch basins for flood water had also disappeared because of the mushrooming of subdivisions there.

Project director Ricardo Camacho said more construction activities are expected in the next three months after they had secured the writ of possession for some properties from the court.

No obstacles

The government had already acquired the properties affected in the North Navotas Pumping Station project.

The station is a major component of the project.

Camacho said that with the writ of possession already at hand, work for the Navotas Navigation Gate could now resume.

Activities for the Navotas Navigation Gate, a special facility to be installed near the mouth of the Navotas River for easy navigation of ship and fishing boats, had been suspended since April because of right-of-way problems.

Deputy project director Carla Bartolo said they were also expecting another writ of possession anytime this month that would pave the way for the construction of the Catmon Pumping Station and floodgate.

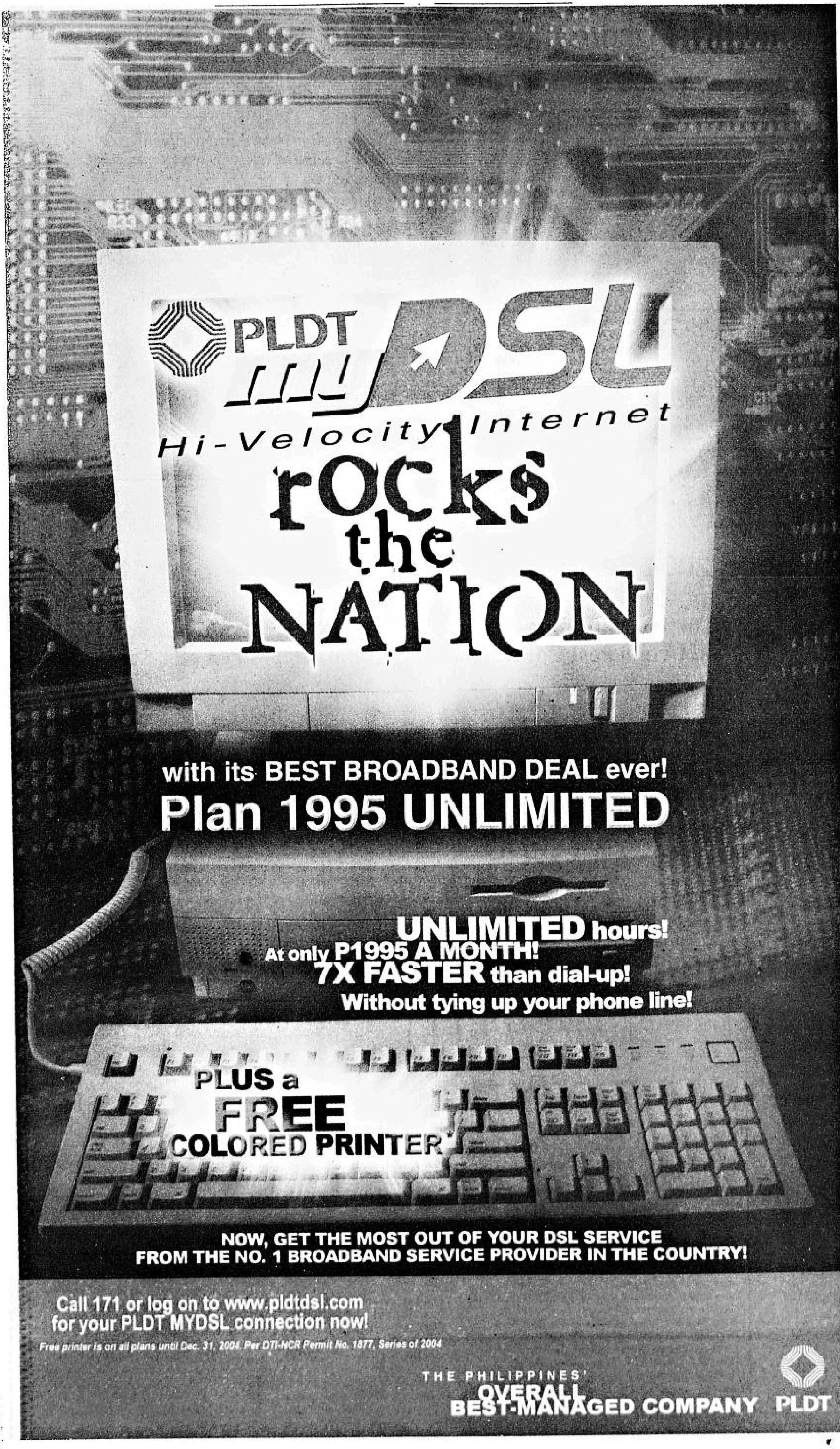
"With all these developments, we can fast track the civil work activities in line with the directive of Secretary Soriquez to attain the 20-percent target by the end of the year," Camacho said.

Turnover

Work on the flood control project that began late last year had been hampered by problems with private property owners and informal settlers who had reoccupied cleared areas.

In 2000, more than 6,000 affected families within the project's right-of-way area were relocated at established relocation sites in Bulacan.

Cleared areas were turned over to the concerned local government units for security and safeguarding until the actual project was implemented, following the January 1999 agreement between the department and local government units.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One apple too many kills worker

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A 17-YEAR-OLD worker was killed, while six others were injured after the upper floor of an apple storehouse in Navotas collapsed the other night.

Boxes of apples and wooden beam parts fell on Duran Sican as he was working at the Checkered Food Corp. in North Bay Boulevard South.

His six co-workers—Rodel Along, 23; Arnold Solis, 28; Ramil Balansag, 19; Rolando Villamor, 23; Richard Cañete, 19; and Jose Santillan, 19—survived with minor injuries.

The six were arranging heavy loads of apples on the upper floor, while Sican was on the ground floor when the wooden beams gave way.

Sican was already dead when he was brought to the Tondo General Hospital, police said.

Suspected drug courier nabbed

By Nelson F. Fortes

A SUSPECTED drug courier carrying a cargo of dried marijuana leaves worth P1.1 million was arrested by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Manila policemen on Tuesday.

The arrest came in the heels of a US Central Intelligence Agency report claiming that the Philippines exports marijuana and hashish to East Asia, the United States and other western markets.

Rolando Mationg, was about to board an Iloilo-bound ship of the Negros Navigation Company (Nenaco) when he was caught in an entrapment operation.

An unidentified member of the ship's crew had tipped off police about Mationg's alleged illegal activities, a source said.

Mationg is now facing charges of violation of Republic Act 9165 (Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) in the Manila City Prosecutors Office.

Agreement

Earlier, Nenaco had entered into an agreement with the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), promising to help the government in its war against illegal drugs.

Under the agreement, the DDB, through its Barkada Kontra Droga program, would train Nenaco personnel on how to deal with drug users among its passengers, and how to spot illegal drugs while en route to their destination.

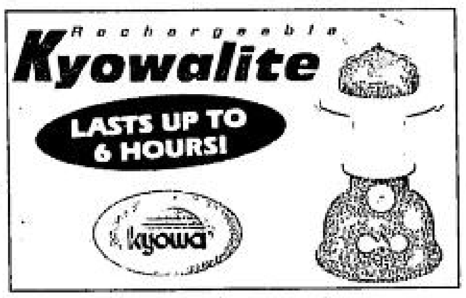
"The agreement would be of great help in our campaign since the Nenaco will be assisting the government in educating the public, through their passengers, about the government's campaign against illegal drugs," said DDB Undersecretary and Executive Director Jose Calida.

Big boost

He added that Nenaco's involvement in the drug war would be a big boost to the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

It would be difficult for the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard to monitor the seas without the help of the private sector because of the long coastlines in Luzon and Mindanao, Calida said.

Apart from being an exporter of marijuana and hashish, the CIA report said the Philippines serves as a transit point for heroin and shabu (crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride) suppliers. The PDEA admitted that illegal drugs are still a problem, but stressed that this had been reduced to manageable levels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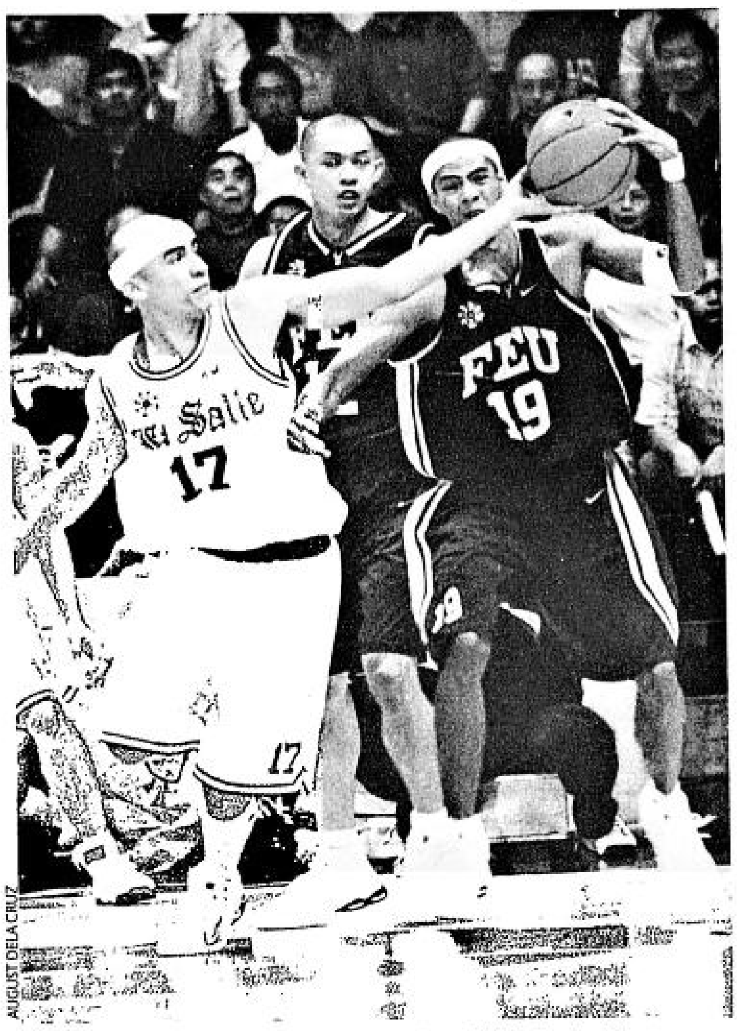

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

MAC Cardona (17) swipes the ball away from FEU's Arwind Santos.

GAMES SUNDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs-Game 2 Finals)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs-Game 2 Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE DE LA Salle Archers surprised the defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws with their aggressiveness yesterday and pulled off a 58-51 victory to claim Game 1 of the UAAP senior basketball Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We really came prepared. We anticipated all the things they did today," said coach Franz Pumaren after the Archers moved within a win of their fifth championship in 11 years.

"They were really surprised with what we did. If you look at it, it seemed like we didn't do anything different. But when you analyze closely, we made a lot of adjustments," added Pumaren.

Ryan Araña matched his season-high of 16 points he first scored against FEU in the first round and Mac Cardona fired 15 as the Archers extended their winning streak to nine and now hope that the 10th would bring them the championship when they clash with the Tamaraws again on Sunday.

"We were kind of rusty," admitted coach Koy Banal, whose Tamaraws came off a week's break. "But my players vowed that it will be a different FEU on Sunday."

La Salle's aggressive offense shocked FEU early on and the Tamaraws never recovered. The Archers forged ahead at 24-10 at the end of the first quarter and later stretched this to 15 points, 31-16, in the second canto.

Araña, Cardona and Jun Cabatu then teamed up as La Salle took a 19-point spread, 52-33, in the third period.

And although Arwind Santos pulled FEU within 56-44 in the fourth quarter, the Archers easily rode out the rally.

Earlier, the defending champion Ateneo Eaglets outclassed the University of Santo Tomas Tigers in the final minutes to clinch Game 1 of the junior Finals, 61-51. Pao Dizon topscored with 14 points, while Jai Reyes added 11.

Ateneo trailed 48-50 early in the fourth quarter, but staged a 13-1 run, including back-to-back triples from Anton Perez.

The scores:

First game (Jrs)

ATENEO 61—Dizon 14, Reyes 11, Chiu 7, Perez 7, Manlapaz 5, Nadal 4, Medina 4, Tuason 4, Gamboa 4, Austria 1, Tingson 0, Silva 0, Abellada 0.

UST 51—Mejica 14, Badua 10, Fran 8, Basa 7, Abad 6, Revereza 4, Zapanta 2, Dela Cruz 0, Cunanan 0.

Quarters: 14-8, 36-24, 45-42, 61-55.

Second game (Srs)

LA SALLE 58—Araña 16, Cardona 15, Yeo 10, Cabatu 8, Benitez 5, Villanueva 2, Walsham 0, Tang 0, Maierhoffer 0, Casio 0

FEU 51—Santos 14, Rizada 10, Miranda 10, Isip 6, Yabut 4, Cutler 3, Mangahas 0, Garcia 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 24-10, 39-26, 53-38, 58-51.

Ilagan denies snubbing POC probe on Pasa

NO SNUB.

Former swimming president Chito Ilagan issued this statement yesterday, denying an INQUIRER report his group has refused to cooperate with the Philippine Olympic Committee's arbitration committee tasked to resolve the latest leadership row in the association.

"We haven't received a notice from the POC," said Ilagan's secretary general, Chito Rivera. "We were made to look like we are not cooperating but the truth is that I think the POC is only in the process of fact-finding."

Ilagan, who was replaced by Mark Joseph as president during an election in Cebu City Sept. 11, was installed as swim head by his supporters in the board anew in another election in Tiaong, Quezon, Sept. 18.

Joseph said he has submitted to the POC all the documents to support his group's claim that the elections it conducted was the official Pasa elections. He stressed that Ilagan's group has yet to submit its own documents.

However, national training director Anthony Lozada said Ilagan's group had already furnished the POC a copy of the regional elections early this year.

He didn't say, however, whether Ilagan's group had already submitted the results of the Sept. 18 polls.

Ilagan's group also claimed that Mindanao vice president Rodney Barretto was elected in absentia in their own elections. But Barretto disowned the position, saying he was already elected to the same post under Joseph's camp. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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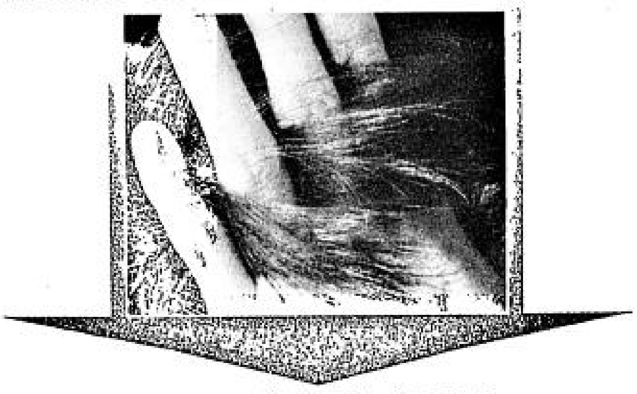

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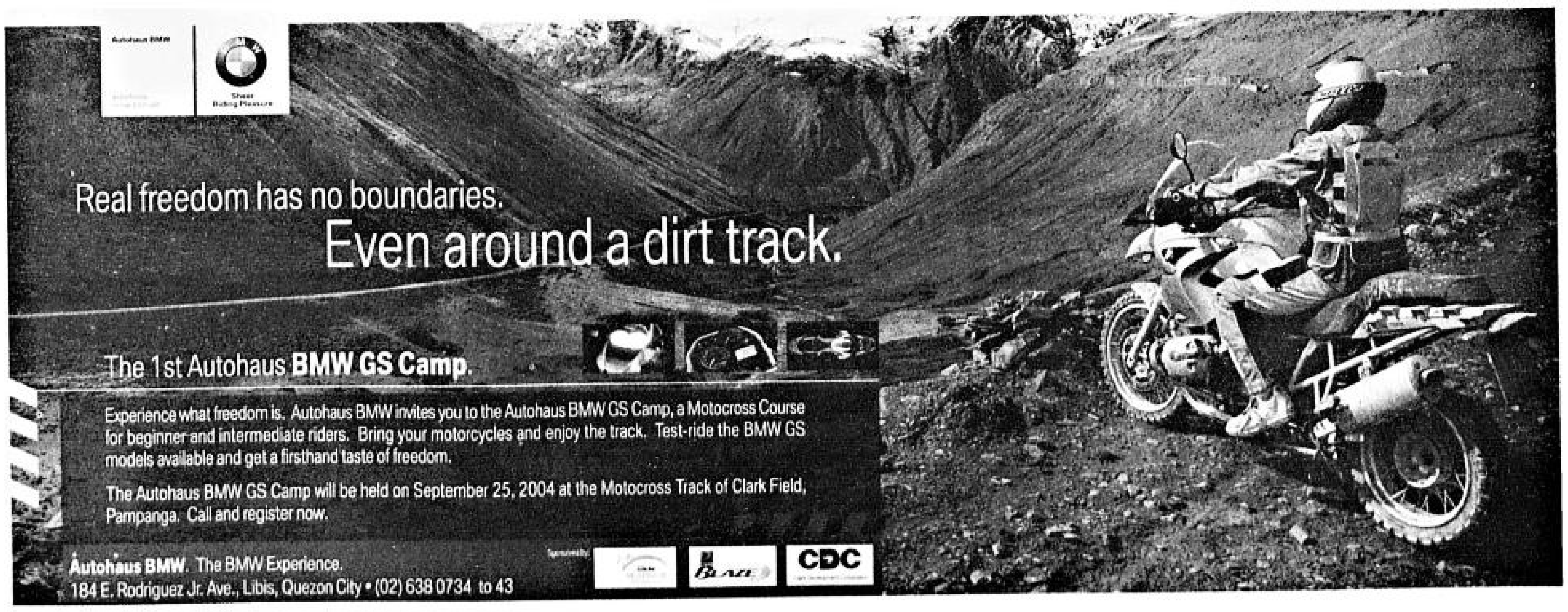
- Dolphins going after dynastic reign in NC /A27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Zoleta upsets Malaysian 4th seed; Agra up

UNSEEDED Noelle Nikki Zoleta eliminated fourth seed Thiumalak Neesha of Malaysia, 6-3, 6-3, yesterday to gain the girls' singles semifinals of the Futures Foundation-Asian Tennis Federation 14-Under Series at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Zoleta will face second seed compatriot Trudy Gine Amoranto, who defeated sixth seed Chit Thee Moe of Myanmar, 6-3, 6-1.

Local third seed Jessica Marie Agra downed fifth seed Malaysian Vythinatha Chellapriya, 6-3, 6-0, to advance against top seed Malaysian Jawariah Nordin, a 6-0, 7-5 winner over local Zhane Quitara.

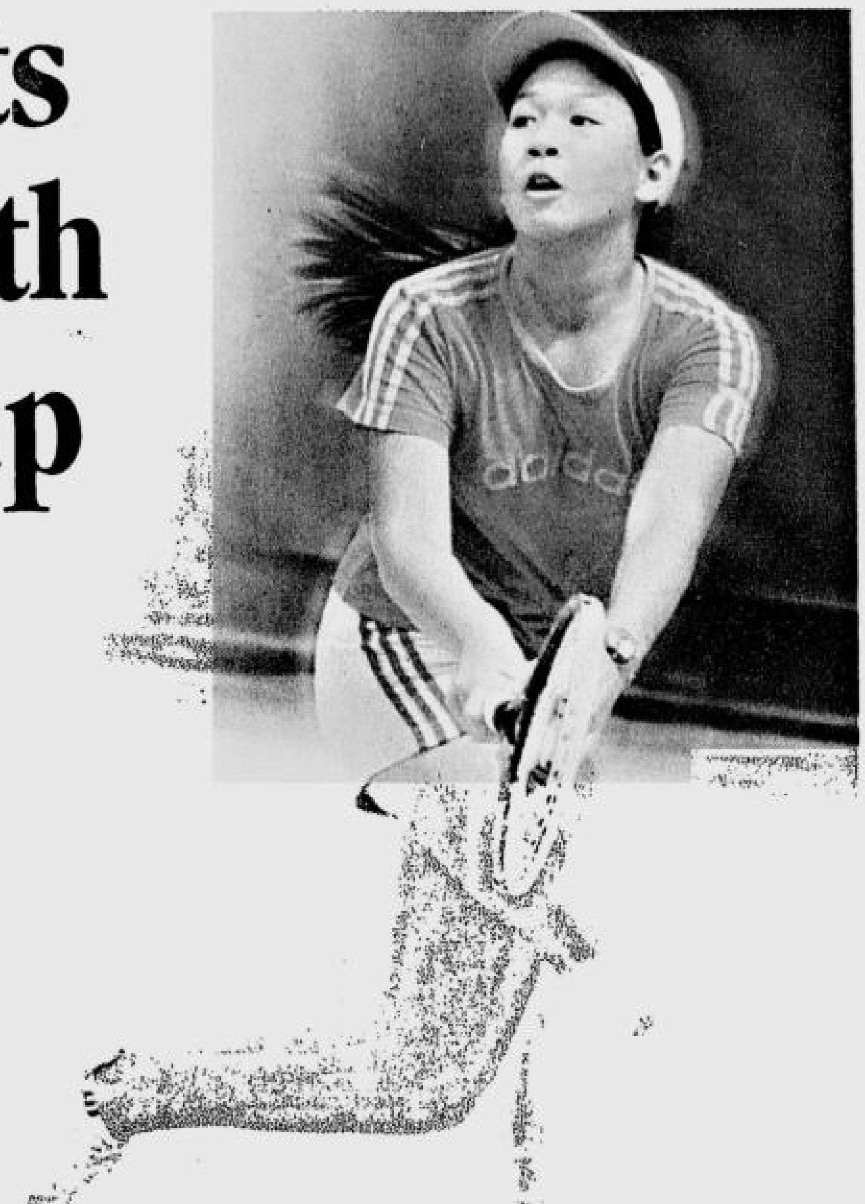
In the boys' singles, top-ranked local Pablo Olivarez II won over compatriot Gerardo Narvaez, 6-3, 6-2, to forge a semifinal showdown with John Franc Gil Largo, who beat Tomas Apacible, 6-1, 6-2.

Second seed local El Santo Santos outplayed James Carl Canete, 6-4, 6-2, to advance against Fracis Casey Alcantara, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Mark Jaypee Balce.

In the girls' doubles, the top-seeded pair of Trudy Amoranto and Jessica Agra clobbered Julie Em Botor and Mary Zhant Ribaya, 6-2, 6-0, while Ma. Kristina Serrano and Steffanie Dizon downed Enah Baba and Victoria Magaway, 6-1, 6-4, to secure semis berths.

In the boys' doubles, No. 1 Pablo Olivarez II and El Santo Santos demolished Thomas Apacible and Joshua Tan Ho, 6-1, 6-1, to advance in the quarterfinals against James Carl Canete and Gerard Michael Ngo, 6-2, 6-1 winners over Paul Nicole Magaway and Gerardo Narvaez.

In other matches, No. 2 Min Thar Pho and Bo Zin of Myanmar survived local pair Roman Floreza and Juan Gabriel Pena, 1-6, 6-2, 7-6 (2), No. 3 Han Zhou Tan and Mohd Fazre Said of Malaysia defeated locals Francis Alcantara and Mark Balce, 6-1, 6-4, and locals Carlos Espedido and Raymond Padigos struggled past Malaysian pair Christian Lee and Edric Lo, 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (2).



JESSICA Agra of the Philippines returns a lob from Malaysian Chellapriya V during the semifinals of the Futures Foundation-Asian Tennis Federation 14-Under Series.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Pinoy bets see action in Kinabalu

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia—A lean but mean Philippine delegation plunges into action today as the fourth BIMP-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines-East Asean Growth Area) Friendship Games unfolds in this Malaysian seaport.

Led by swimming sensation Shahani Navarro and Haroon Cali of Iligan City, the youthful Pinoy bets, whose trip here was funded by the Philippine Sports Commission with the help of their respective local government units, are looking to retain the unofficial overall championship they won in Palawan last year.

"Our athletes are ready. Although winning in an international competition is every athlete's dream, the focal point of our participation here is to strengthen our economic and social relations with our neighboring countries," said PSC commissioner and delegation head Leon G. Montemayor.

The 31-man RP delegation arrived here yesterday after more than an hour flight from Manila via Malaysian Airlines.

WBF weigh-in draws Croucher

NO LESS than World Boxing Foundation president Mick Croucher will preside over today's official weigh-in at the Games and Amusements Board office for tomorrow's "WBF Showdown" card.

Featuring for the first time four WBF International title fights in one night, the card is being held to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the late Papa Sarreal, the acknowledge Grand Old Man of Philippine boxing.

Croucher, who flew in from Australia to be at ringside for this major event, will also preside over the rules briefing for officials after the weigh-in.

Another beneficiary is the St. Rita College and orphanage in Parañaque which is marking its 40th anniversary.

Promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr., grandson of Papa Sarreal, is putting up the card which will be headlined by a clash between former amateur gold medalist Sukarno Banjao of Iloilo City against Yongki Afrizal of Indonesia for the vacant WBF International flyweight throne. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

GAB to investigate Gerry tiff outcome

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

CEBU CITY—The Games and Amusements Board is set to conduct a preliminary investigation tomorrow to determine who was responsible for giving ex-World Boxing Council superfly king Gerry Peñalosa a bum opponent from Thailand in his comeback fight in Mandaue City last week.

Peñalosa easily put away the Thai in less than two rounds.

GAB OIC Emmanuel Palabrica, who will spearhead the investigation in lieu of chair Eduardo Villanueva, on sick leave due to an eye surgery, told this writer he would summon all the parties involve in the horrible mismatch at the GAB's Cebu office to possibly adopt measures and avoid a similar incident in the future.

"I will be going to Cebu this Saturday for that purpose. We will investigate the matter," said Palabrica.

Thai Samingkao Chutipol not only proved an unworthy rival for Peñalosa. He also made a mockery of the fight by feigning a third knockdown in the second round as the Filipino charged for the kill.

Dodie Boy Peñalosa, who trains his younger brother, was also surprised to see his brother dismantle the Thai so easily.

Three days before the bout, local matchmaker Aljoe Jaro, who recruited the Thai, said that Chutipol is a "tough fighter."

Ilocos Sur, Pampanga set eyes on URBL title

TWO North Luzon teams—the Ilocos Sur Snipers and the Harbour Centre-Pampanga—are banking on their experienced lineup and pre-season preparations for a strong showing in the 1st United Regional Basketball League kicking off tomorrow at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

The Snipers, who will be facing M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu in the main game at 3 p.m., will be bannered by veterans Johnedel Cardel, Dondon Mendoza, Michael Manigo and big men Jerome Barbosa, Philip Butel and Allan Uy in this tournament sponsored by adidas Philippines and telecast live over ABC-5 from 1-5 p.m.

Team owners Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Vice Gov. DV Savellano have tasked the coaching staff headed by Mario Quitoriano to recruit the best men possible for the team.

An architect by profession, Quitoriano was responsible for the success of the basketball program at the University of Northern Philippines and will be assisted by Jeff Flowers and Louie Gonzalez.

Quitoriano also tapped UNP stalwarts Mico Quitoriano and Ramsey Cabradilla to beef up the team that also includes shooter Ben Yulo, Ryan Bernardo, Orly Torrente, Richard Hardin, Richard Michael and Francis-Rauschmayer.

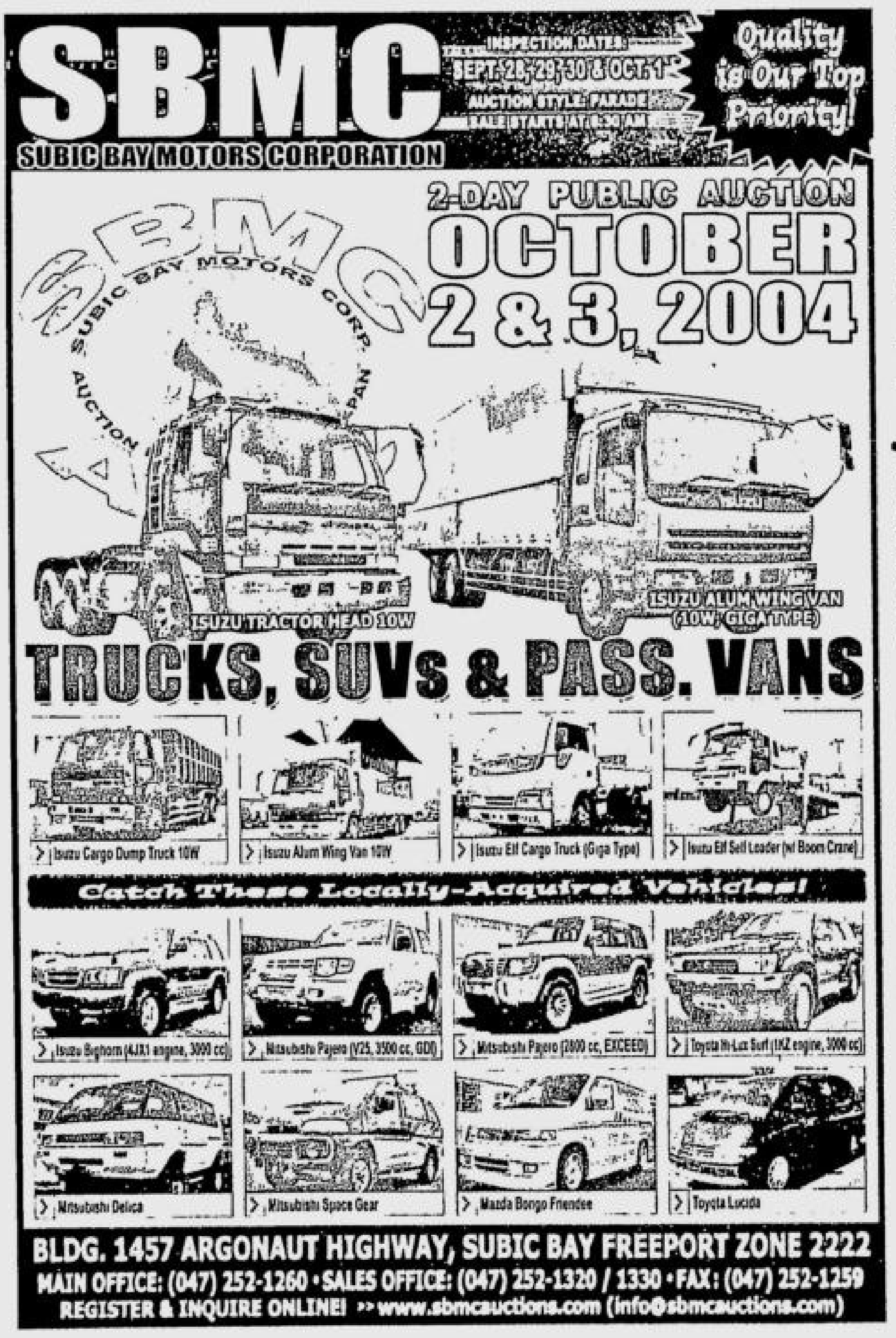
"We're eyeing nothing but the title that's why the team has been under rigid training and preparation for the past three months knowing the strong challenge from the two Cebu teams and the Quezon Huskers," said Quitoriano.

Petron volley on

SUBIC—The third leg of the 2004 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament begins today with 20 ladies divided into 10 teams to dispute the championship.

Tisha Abundo, tournament organizer, said the drawing of lots for the team pairings will be held early morning today before the actual kickoff at 9 a.m.

"Everything is set. I look forward to another exciting weekend of volleyball," said Abundo.



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Coseteng seeks another double

MULTITITLED driver Jody Coseteng tries to strengthen his precarious hold on the lead when he shoots for another double triumph in the 9th and 10th rounds of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, on Sunday.

Coseteng, the four-time Driver of the Year backed by Caltex Havoline and San Mig Strong Ice, was without equal in rounds 7 and 8 of the series, ruling both races to vault into the lead with a total of 75 points.

Coseteng, aboard his Honda Civic, pulled off a 32-second victory over privateer Dominic Bon in Round 8 en route to a time of 25:22.105, before wiping the opposition again in the seventh round with a time of 29:01.869. Coseteng leads Bon in the standings by two and Rey Reyes by nine.

Havoline team captain Oscar Aguilar is still aiming for that breakthrough victory in the Batangas series, and the Subic and Batangas back-to-back champion believes the 9th and 10th rounds could finally be it.

Jao tries to keep grand prix top spot

ROSARIO, Batangas—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance seeks another win that will firm up his bid for an unprecedented eighth crown tomorrow in the fifth leg of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Jao, following another back-to-back victory in the last leg, pulled away with 170 points in the Expert class of the 2004 Shell Advance Superbikes Series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association.

But a 47-point lead over his closest rival Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex is not safe and Jao needs another win on the challenging track supervised by BRC operations manager Rey Rufon to firm up his title bid.

Randy Ortiz is third overall with 107 points while Toti Alberto of Ducati-Access Plus is fourth .

GMs Antonio, Mariano petition POC

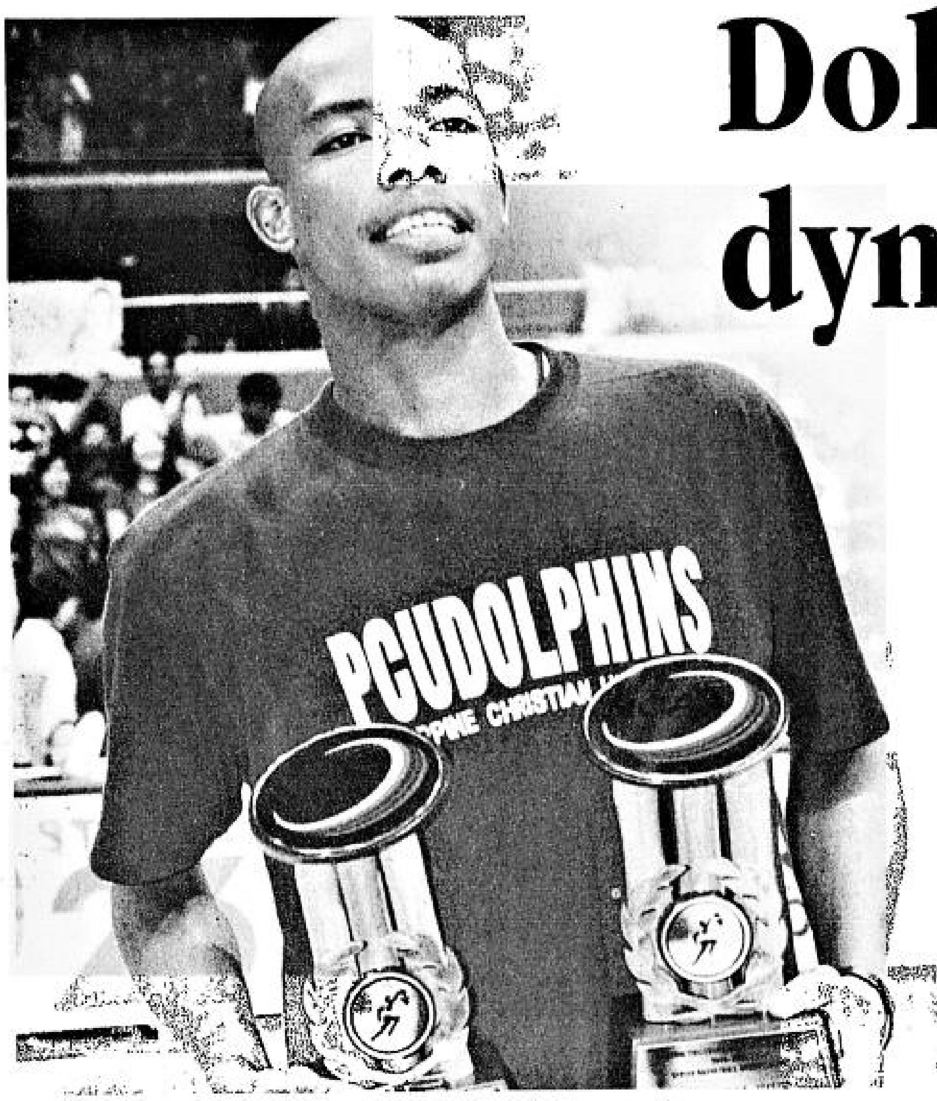
CONCERNED members of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, led by Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano II, yesterday petitioned the Philippine Olympic Committee to determine which set of officers can represent the chess body in the POC.

"On July 31, 2004, a general assembly meeting and election of the board of director of the NCFP was chaired by lawyer Samuel Estimo without authority from the NCFP board of directors," the petitioners claimed. "Atty. Estimo was a suspended secretary general of the NCFP. No notice of the meeting containing the agenda was given to the members as required by the NCFP bylaws," they said.

GLEN Aguilar (left) crosses the finish line during the kickoff leg of the Camel Supercross Championship Series in Roxas City on Sept. 19. At right, Jerry Malmis of Fortune Tobacco hands the trophy to Dexter Bacabac, who topped the veterans-B class.

SUPERCROSS
Championship

Dolphins going after dynastic reign in NC



PCU's Gabriel Espinas holds his MVP and Rookie of the Year trophies. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran
(Jrs-Game 3 Finals)

COULD this be the beginning of a new dynasty in the NCAA?

"The team is intact. Everyone will be back next year and maybe we can go for another one," said coach Loreto Tolentino after the Philippine Christian U Dolphins swept the University of Perpetual Help to win their first ever championship crown in the NCAA senior basketball tournament last Wednesday.

It's a fair warning, indeed, from a team whose best player is a rookie.

Gabby Espinas, a 22-year-old find from Olongapo, made league history by winning both the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year awards. "I didn't expect it," said the 6-foot-4 Amerasian, who tried out for the Far Eastern University Tamaraws but didn't make the cut.

"From the start, I've been saying he plays like an import," said Tolentino. "Although there are still things he can work on because he's a rookie, *gagaling pa yan pagtagal* (he's bound to improve some more). I told him to study and keep training because basketball can change his life."

Clearly, Espinas proved to be the most lethal player the entire season, but he wasn't PCU's only star.

Finals MVP Robert Sanz, who averaged 17.5 points in the title series, will be back for one more year. "They say he's my favorite player. But that's because he's good and humble," said Tolentino, who has mentored pro players like Nelson Asaytono, Bong Alvarez and Chris Bolado in high school.

And there's sophomore Jason Castro, who's best remembered for his game-winning triple in Game 1. "He can attack in crucial moments. *Buo ang loob niya* (He's got a big fighting heart). He has done it before against Letran," said Tolentino.

Rookie point guard Ramon Retaga Jr. and sophomore forward Ian Garrido, who won the Most Improved Player award, also starred for this youthful roster.

"They really have the talent. They just needed the motivation," said Tolentino, who took over from Jimmy Mariano this year.

And what a mighty motivation it was for the 2003 cellar-dwellers who were least expected to become champions this year.

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Cubs, Squires dispute junior crown at RMC

GAME 3 of the NCAA junior basketball Finals between defending champion San Beda College Red Cubs and the Colegio de San Juan de Letran Squires will be played at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum today instead of the Araneta Coliseum as earlier announced.

The game will be aired live on Studio 23 at 3:15 p.m.

The Red Cubs, under coach Ato Badolato, failed to end the grand slam quest last Wednesday, when the Squires, following the lead of Lucas Tagarda, completed an 8-0 wind-up run in the final minute of Game 2 to level the series with an 81-76 victory.

Tagarda finished with a well-deserved Milo Energy Player Award for his (15 points, 10 assists, 9 steals, 6 rebounds) efforts.

Letran coach Jing Ruiz returns to the bench after serving a one-game suspension together with player Ed John Cabarrubia following a tumultuous Game 1 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum last Monday.

San Beda controlled Game 1, 87-77, with MVP Rogemar Menor and Most Improved Player Jay-R Taganas logging double-double stats in points and rebounds.

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INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION
For Contract No. ADB/OAS-2004/059

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested parties to apply for pre-qualification in the bidding of ADB's Enhanced Security Access Control Project.

2. The Contractor shall build, install and supply the materials, tools, equipment, labor and supervision for the construction of the ADB Enhanced Security Access Control to Bank Facilities – ADB Visitor's Entry/Exit Screening Facilities & Lobbies Enhancement Project located at the ADB Headquarters Building, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila in accordance with the plans, specifications, policies, standards and procedures established by ADB. The project consists of but not limited to the following construction of new screening facilities for three access points namely (i) ADB Avenue entrance with fixed bollards; (ii) Guadix Gate entrance; and (iii) Bank Drive entrance with fixed bollards, enhancement of the main and west lobbies. The project will also cover provisions for Security System components namely (i) Heavy duty security booms at driveway entry/exit points, (ii) Automatic Electro-mechanical rectractable bollards at Bank Drive entry/exit point; (iii) Walk-through scanner and X-ray bag screening; and (iv) Cantilevered gates. The Contractor shall be required to use Security System components that are compatible with the standards and specifications currently in use within the ADB Headquarters. The Contractor will be further responsible for the following works: (a) relocation of trees and vegetation affected by the project; (b) repair and touch up of all areas affected during the execution of the Works; (c) clean-up, and (d) turnover of project

3. This invitation is open to firms from ADB member countries who meet the minimum requirements specified in the pre-qualification documents. The minimum criteria for pre-qualification are detailed in the "Business Opportunities" page of the ADB website: www.adb.org

4. Pre-qualification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Administration, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Room 4221N at the above-mentioned address starting from 24 September 2004 during office hours (8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.)

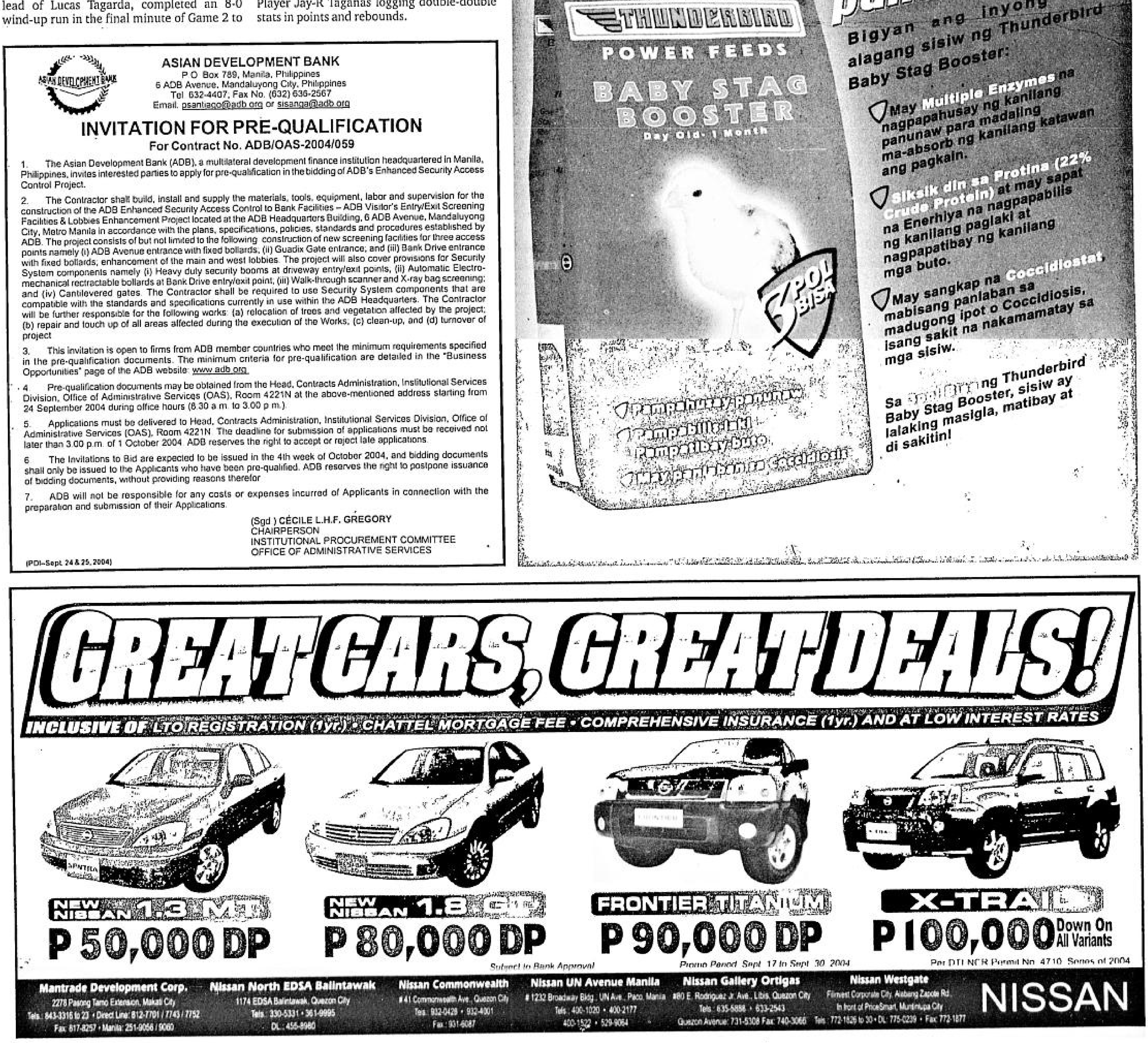
5. Applications must be delivered to Head, Contracts Administration, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Room 4221N. The deadline for submission of applications must be received not later than 3.00 p.m. of 1 October 2004. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.

6. The Invitations to Bid are expected to be issued in the 4th week of October 2004, and bidding documents shall only be issued to the Applicants who have been pre-qualified. ADB reserves the right to postpone issuance of bidding documents, without providing reasons therefor

7. ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred of Applicants in connection with the preparation and submission of their Applications.

(Sgd.) CÉCILE L.H.F. GREGORY
CHAIRPERSON
INSTITUTIONAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(PDI–Sept. 24 & 25, 2004)



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NISSAN

BATTLE OF THE COURTS

Valle, Manila Polo head Platinum Cup list

TEAMS from acknowledged sources of talents Valle Verde Country Club and Manila Polo Club as well as popular courts like Powersmash, Yonex and The Palms frontline a huge roster of 60 squads competing in the Metro Manila eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: The First National Inter-Club Platinum Badminton Cup starting next month.

Co-presented by Globe Platinum and the INQUIRER BADMINTON Monthly, the 60 clubs will be going through five different elimination stages in various courts in search of slots to the national finals at the newly opened Market! Market! at Bonifacio Global City scheduled on Nov. 20-21.

A team captains' meeting will be held today where organizers will discuss the final guidelines ahead of the first eliminations leg for the East sector covering Pasig, Marikina and Rizal slated Oct. 9-10 at the West Drive in Pasig.

The Platinum Cup also supported by Mizuno Badminton, Philippine Airlines, L TimeStudio and Gerflor Taraflex as official mat sponsor was originally set to fire off on Oct. 2-3 with the West leg. But organizers had to push back the schedule by another week due to a request from the competing teams.

Valle Verde, once considered as the home to the country's national players, banners the field in the East sector while Yonex, Powersmash and Manila Polo are in the tough Central qualifying on Oct. 23-24 to be co-hosted by The Zone and Yonex for clubs in Makati, Mandaluyong and San Juan.

The Palms along with the Alabang Country Club headline the lineup for the South on Oct. 16-17 at the Olivarez College Sports Complex in Sucat, Parañaque.

More than P500,000 worth of prizes including a trip to Bangkok, Thailand for the winning team are at stake in the country's first ever competition among badminton courts.

Aside from the Bangkok trip, also to be given away are premium items from Globe Platinum, top-of-the-line equipment from Mizuno, watches from L TimeStudio and other exciting prizes from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The Battle of the Courts was actually designed to provide members and loyal patrons of top clubs all over the country a competition of the non-ranking nature.

The Metro Manila qualifiers will be joined by representatives from Cebu (Metro Sports Club), Davao (Holiday Spa Badminton Center) and Bacolod (Pohang), and another seeded team in the grand finals.

The tournament's strict eligibility rules require players to be a Filipino citizen, a member or regular player of the participating partner court he represents. He or she must not have been a member of any national team/pool or collegiate team and not have acted as coach or trainer.

The organizers have left the selection process for the partner courts' representatives for the area eliminations to the discretion of their respective management.

For inquiries, call the INQUIRER Badminton office at 8978808 locals 259 or 261. Look for Ching dela Cruz.

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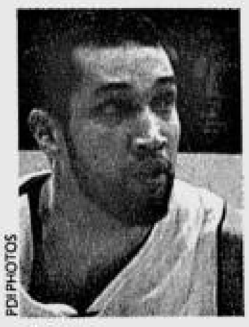

SEIGLE

HATFIELD

PDI PHOTOS

DOJ or probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT everybody said is the final judge of the citizenship case against the Fil-foreign players of the Philippine Basketball Association has finally made its move.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has created a special committee to once and for all decide on the citizenship of cager Asi Taulava and seven other Fil-foreign players, whose stint in the country's professional league is again being questioned by a group of local basketball players.

In a department order dated Sept. 21, Gonzalez designated Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III to head the committee that would review the citizenship cases of the eight players.

"Since the (pieces of) evidence are all here, including the Senate findings, let's

A bit of Fiesta PBA season's

By June Navarro

THE NEW Philippine Basketball Association season will pick up something from the not-so-old.

The league is rehashing the format it used in the Fiesta Conference with the top two teams getting a double-edged bonus that can be a curse to some.

The ten teams play a double-round elimination phase with the top two teams advancing outright to the semifinals.

While others view that advantage as a blessing—outright teams no longer need to go through the perilous wild-card and quarterfinal playoffs—others see it as a stale period where a team could lose its competitive edge.

"It's the best thing that can happen to a team, going straight to the semifinals. But it cuts both ways. You could be inactive for about 22 days and that takes a lot out of your rhythm," said San Miguel coach Jong Uichico, whose team marched to the semifinals outright in the Fiesta Conference, took a 10-day break while the rest of the field went through the wild-card phase and the quarterfinal round, and then fizzled out of the title race.

"But everybody's going to be gunning

Off-tr

I AM DISAPPOINTED with published reports that an off-track betting station (OTBs) for horse racing fans has been installed at the newly inaugurated Manileño Sports Club café-bar located at the Rizal Memorial Track Football Stadium on Adriatico Street, fronting the Harrison Plaza.

As far as I am concerned, the installation of the OTB station at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex is morally wrong even though, on legal grounds, the club operators are secured.

The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, the cradle of Philippine sports, is not the proper place to operate an OTB station. Why? Because this so-called sports club could possibly breed a new generation of gamblers and hustlers among our athletes and coaches in the long run. Gambling in any form—whether legal or not—has no place in sports because it would destroy the lives and careers of the athletes and their coaches. Gambling is not only senseless but addictive as well.

My intention here is not to meddle in the business of other people. What I object to is the operation of an off-track betting station in order to protect the sporting community from the evils of gambling at the RMSC where I spent many, many years covering the sports beat.

The operation of an OTB station at the so-called sports club will definitely have a negative effect on our athletes and coaches and should not be encouraged.

According to reports, the sports club is owned by a certain engineer Che Borromeo of Manila's department of public service. Aside from the OTB station and the café-bar, the club also offers

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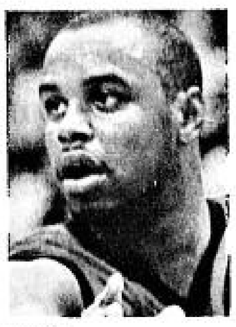

PEÑA

HARP

ders final on Fil-Ams

his soonest with finality unless y a court order," Gonzalez said.

s Taulava, the hulking Talk 'N er who is coming off a Most Valu- ver season, the other players izenships are being investigated Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Andy Sei- efoods, Davonn Harp and Mick Red Bull, Alex Crisano of Gine- than Ordonio of Alaska and Do- of San Miguel Beer.

lez said he made the move since n more than a year after the Sen- mended the deportation of the ers. The Senate Committee on musement and Sports in August nd in a probe that the Fil-foreign nad faked their citizenship pa-

lez said the other members of nittee that will review the cagers' p are State Counsels Ramon ndoza and Elmer Cris Lu Rillo prosecutor Benny Nicdao.

d, Seigle, and Peña went to the Department of Justice yesterday afternoon to follow up their cases.

Seigle's case is particularly intriguing since his brother, Danny, has qualified as a legitimate Filipino-American under the constitution.

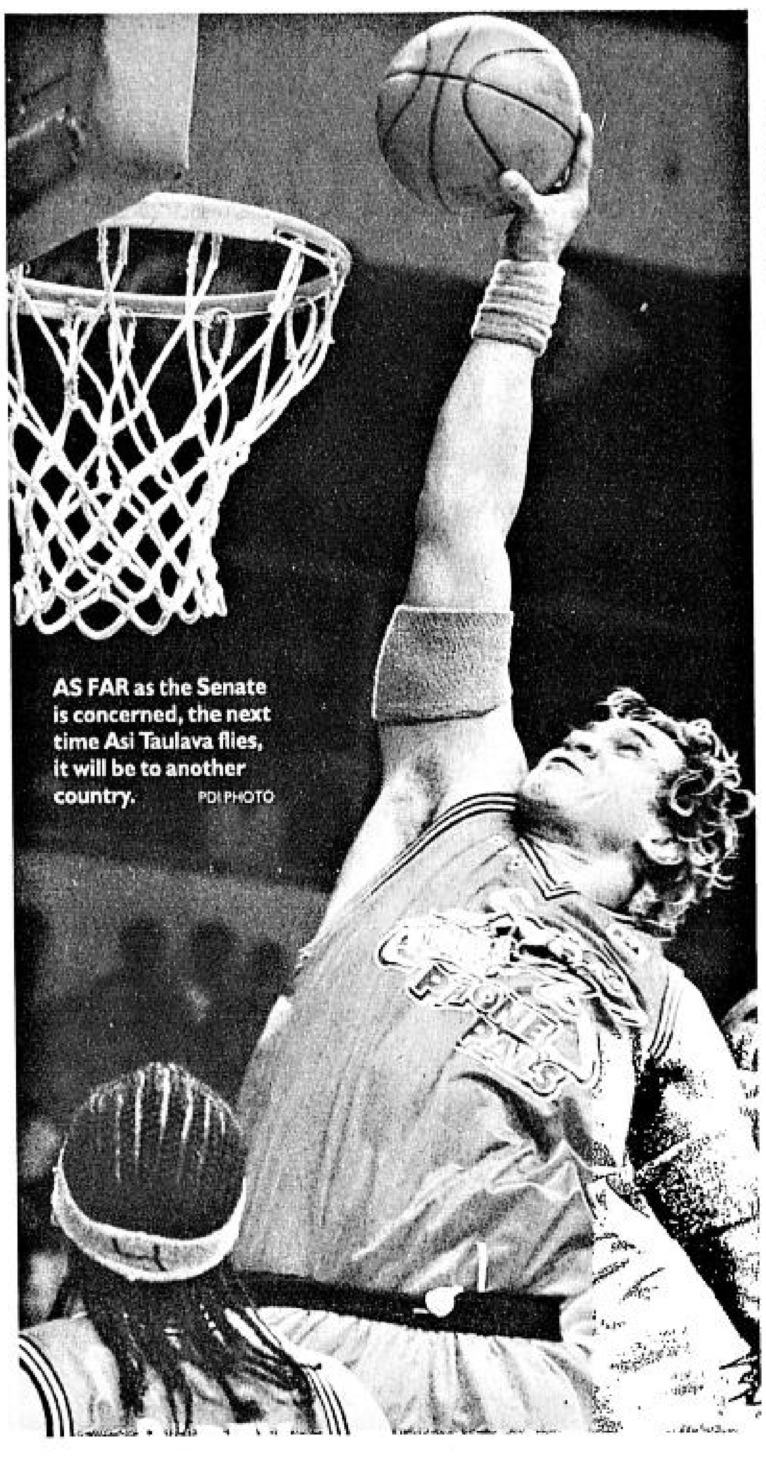
In June, the DOJ said that Ordonio is a Filipino citizen but Gonzalez said his case would be reviewed again.

"Everything will be reviewed. I'll await the recommendation of the committee," Gonzalez said.

The Senate had ordered the Bureau of Immigration to deport Taulava and the other players for allegedly faking their citizenship.

The Fil-foreigners, however, have not been deported since the DOJ first has to revoke its confirmation of their citizenship before the bureau could deport them.

Taulava has also obtained a court injunction against his possible deportation but the DOJ has yet to receive any formal notification about that court injunction.


AS FAR as the Senate is concerned, the next time Asi Taulava flies, it will be to another country. PDI PHOTO

Citing Cito

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WITH 23 NSA presidents solidly behind Peping Cojuangco, it's almost a done deal insofar as the POC election is concerned.

I can only see two reasons for Peping not becoming the next POC president by November.

One, he withdraws from the fight on the eve of election.

Two, the POC gets abolished before the polls.

The third one—the unforeseen one, which could make Cito Dayrit the surprise winner—is too hypothetical a matter as to spend some brain wracking for it. If the third one should happen at all, God would have willed it.

Why Cito Dayrit hasn't conceded defines the character of the man: Stubborn, if not a born warrior.

There are two major reasons why Cito Dayrit will lose to Peping Cojuangco.

One, the majority of NSA presidents are disgruntled with his style of leadership. They are disgruntled because they say Cito loves to break his promises. They are disgruntled because they say Cito loves to play favorites.

Two, Peping Cojuangco's stature makes Cito Dayrit a mere midget in a battle between supposed giants. Before becoming president of the equestrian association, Peping was president of bowling and golf, while at the same time serving invariably as mayor and congressman of Tarlac.

If the battle should materialize at all, it's going to be a dull fight as Peping will rout Cito, which will be a far cry from Cito's loss to Cristy Ramos a while back when he lost to FVR's feisty daughter by a single vote.

If Cito doesn't give up the ghost now, he will go down in history as the Don Quixote of Philippine sports. In reverse, though. For, the trouble is, unlike Don Quixote, Cito will lose both the battle and the war; Don Quixote merely lost the battle but not the war.

I understand Peping Cojuangco is celebrating today. He will mark the occasion by being with his allies to map out the main strategy for the November election.

And what's the main strategy?

To ask, no, convince Cito to withdraw and join forces with Peping.

If I were Cito, I'll withdraw and join Peping's camp.

If he does that, that's not selling one's soul. Not a cop-out. No. That's actually looking at the overall picture, which is that, Cito aligning with Peping, means a unified stand for the good of Philippine sports.

Look, the SEA Games will be held here next year. An election, even though it would seem one-sided in favor of Peping, could still produce residues of angst and acrimony between both camps. If Cito is man enough to face the consequences, he'd be able to withstand all of that.

I like what Peping said a while back: "My wish is to become POC president by acclamation." Meaning, no more election.

But then, when it was obvious that almost all the NSA presidents wanted him president, Peping bent down and said, "OK, there's no more turning back. I will run in response to the clamor of my fellow NSA presidents."

The consensus is that today is crucial for Philippine sports in that the 23 or so NSA presidents expected to attend Peping's birthday bash will have to decide the fate of Cito Dayrit.

Did I hear it correctly that NSA presidents like Johnny Romualdez of football, Ligaya Manalang of archery, Sonny Lim of body building, Manny Lopez of boxing, Hector Navasero of baseball and Vincent Piccio III of wrestling are still vacillating and are unsure yet of their affiliations?

C'mon guys, make up your mind. Time is of the essence.

The country will host the SEA Games Federation meeting on Oct. 12 that will decide on the final plans for the Games here next year. It is the hope of everybody that by Oct. 12, Cito would be presiding over the SEA Games Federation committee meeting, with Peping by his side. Hopefully, he'd be telling the delegates that when the SEA Games are on in Manila next year, the POC president by then would be Peping Cojuangco.

And while that'd make Cito Dayrit taller than the tallest mountain in Mt. Malarayat, there'd be no greater sight in sports this year than that.

in new format

outright semifinal seat," said

d actually go worse than the mentor's calculations. If a team of the top two outright slots as before the Christmas break on t will have to fight off the slug- brought by the holidays, try to e through a couple of no-bear- ies and then wait out the three- d-card and quarterfinal phase nging into serious action.

e battle for the top two slots, op seeds in the wild-card and ial phases, is what will make ation round exciting.

allow the fans to have a full f hot action, the league has unprecedented five-day week- le, four of which will be tele- nationally, and maximized its lience reach by alternating l outings with the Metro Mani-

. the league's television partner, e Wednesday and Friday games bleheaders) beginning at 4:45 television network begins its roadcast earlier at 4 p.m. It will Thursday provincial game live, immediately by the recorded f the Tuesday game.

Red Bull makes it three straight

RED BULL Barako crushed Brunei's national team, 121-104, Wednesday to make it three in a row in the 4th Shell Invitational basketball tournament at the indoor stadium in Berakas, Brunei.

"We need to win once more to advance to the semifinals," said coach Yeng Guiao.

Guiao, who is also Pampanga vice governor, was elated with the performance of his boys, particularly Lordy Tugade, who topscored with 27 points.

Other top Red Bull scorers were Topex Robinson with 16, Junthy Valenzuela and Vergel Meneses with 15 each and Fil-American Denver Lopez with 13.

"We still have to play Purefoods, Jones Cup champion You Lon of Taiwan and the Hankook Raiders of Korea," said Guiao. "They're all tough but we will try to win all our games."

Red Bull whipped the Shanghai Sharks mother team of Houston Rockets' Yao Ming, 88-74, last Sunday and Spring Cooking Oil Laguna, the third Philippine team in the series, 91-75, Tuesday night.

Tugade and Robinson, who started together with Davonn Harp, Oliver Agapito and Jun Ordonio, exploded for 15 and 11 points, respectively, in the first quarter which ended at 37-28.

It was Lopez and Valenzuela who carried the load in the second stanza, pouring in nine points apiece. Actually, all players fielded in by Guiao in the second quarter scored as the two-time PBA titlist led, 64-50, at the turn.

UM's Tolentino nears rare double

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BARELY a day after winning a historic college title, Loreto Tolentino was right on track for another.

The seemingly invulnerable University of Manila hardly broke sweat in trampling Centro Escolar University, 75-63, yesterday to move within a win of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

Jovit Gomez led three other Hawks in double figures as UM attacked without let-up to raise their unblemished run in the league to 73 victories.

They can wrap up their fourth straight title in Game 2 tomorrow.

The victory came on the heels of Tolentino's success with the Philippine Christian University Dolphins, who won their first NCAA crown Wednesday.

"This only comes once in a long while," said Tolentino, who could be making another first if he can steer two teams to championships in two separate leagues.

"I applied the same formula, the same treatment and gave them the same priority," said Tolentino of the successful runs of both UM and PCU this year. Tolentino has also led UM to three intercollegiate titles.

The UM Hawklets captured their third straight junior crown early in the day after beating St. Clare College of Caloocan, 78-74.

Three UM players made it to the junior mythical team—Onofre Napiza, who was named MVP, Rookie MVP Christian Guimpatan, and Gomez.

St. Clare, now the runner-up four years in a row, contributed Glen Cadelina and JR Masmayor to the mythical squad.

Chess association marches forward

DESPITE the controversies rocking it, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines gave its newly elected president, Go Teng Kok, a lot of reasons to smile, and brag a little.

"We're moving forward. We're still in the process of putting things in order, but we've already accomplished a lot," said Go, who made a vow after his election as NCFP president barely three weeks ago to bring chess back to its popularity decades ago.

Positive news both from local to international fronts have slowly transformed the NCFP from a beleaguered and controversy-ridden group into a promising association.

But more than this sincere effort to steer the NCFP up to the level of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa) which he also heads, Go was quick to attribute the recent positive gains to the renewed unity and cooperation shown by chess sports officials and players, as well as other personalities.

Mark Paragua reciprocated the support given him by the new NCFP by becoming the country's youngest and sixth Grandmaster.

The ongoing National Open in Tagaytay City, ably backed by Mayor Abraham Tolentino, is running fine with the participants doing their best in a bid to join Paragua and fellow GMs Joey Antonio and Eugene Torre in the coming World Chess Olympiad in Spain.

Preparations for the bid to come up with the strongest campaign in the Chess Olympiad included Go pleading, and succeeding, for the world chess body (Fide) to extend the deadline for the submission of entries by names from Sept. 15 to Sept. 23.

Go also paid half of the back dues incurred by his predecessors in the Fide, shelling out 4,842 Swiss francs from his own pockets.

Fide, in return, welcomed the NCFP back as an active member of good standing by releasing the ELO ratings that showed Paragua keeping his top spot in the RP rankings followed by Antonio and Torre.

Even before these, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo predicted good things for RP chess, and reiterated the support of the First Gentleman Foundation to the sport which Go likewise promised will deliver gold medals in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Arroyo challenged Go during the induction of the new Patafa officers to win "between 15 to 20 golds" for the country in the SEA Games.

"Track and field will deliver, and now I must boast that chess will also help the Philippines in its bid to win the overall SEA Games title. Why? Because no less than the national chess players told me that they will dominate chess in the SEA Games next year," said Go.

ack station at RMSC

CLEAN LIVING

nolo R. Iñigo

alth center and a videoke room where em- vees as well as athletes and coaches residing hin the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex can wind after a day at the office and training at RMSC.

***

E OTHER SIDE OF PAPA SARREAL. The th birthday of the late revered boxing man, e "Papa" Sarreal, will be celebrated tomor- when Elorde International Productions pre- ts four championship fights at the ballroom he Elorde Sports center in Sucat, Parañaque.

Cited by the World Boxing Council as "Pontiff rizefighting" for his long years in boxing, Pa- Sarreal produced 22 world boxing champi- , including his fabled son-in-law, Gabriel ish" Elorde. But do you know that Papa was a former musician, real estate broker, sugar ler, contractor, sales manager and a connois- r of food and drink?

I can play the trumpet when I was seven," a once said in an interview with INQUIRER rtswriter Roy Luarca. "I was playing the vio- and the piano by 11 and, in my high school rs at Manila High, was traveling to the Unit- States as part of a 50-man band entertaining passengers of ocean-going vessels."

As a musician, Papa managed no less than 20 orchestras which played in Vietnam, Korea, Shanghai and Hong Kong and local places like the Manila Hotel. My late father, who played the violin, was a member of that touring band. His passion for boxing started during one of those foreign trips when he took under his wing Joe Sacramento, a lightweight who boasted of a victory over the legendary Ceferino Garcia. He spent 71 years in boxing, traveling around the world several times, meeting and befriending powerful and famous men such as Fidel Castro of Cuba, the late Juan Peron of Argentina and the American novelist, Ernest Hemingway.

At the outbreak of World War II, Papa was imprisoned at a concentration camp in China where he served as a cook, feeding some 3,000 prisoners. "The job was easy," Papa said, "because there was very little food to cook."

After the Pacific war, Papa sold metal scraps, became a real estate broker and exported sugar to Japan, earning enough money which provided for the future of his wife and children, Laura (widow of Flash Elorde), Lilia (married to a Chinese-American surgeon residing in the United States) and Jun, now an international matchmaker, promoter and discoverer of boxing talents. Two of his grandsons, Bebot and Johnny, are also boxing managers-promoters.

Papa entered the construction business, teaming up with the Puyats in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged Jones Bridge. Papa also became sales manager of Lyric Music Store, selling musical instruments.

Intercollegiate tourney slated

THE JVC Open Badminton Intercollegiate Championships is scheduled to take place from Nov. 10 to 16, with all schools invited to the meet.

Far Eastern U, which swept both titles in the JVC Open, is expected to lead the record field chasing for the top P50,000 purse plus a Boracay vacation and gift items. The second placer will receive P30,000 while the third and fourth finishers will get P20,000 each plus merchandises.

Other teams to watch in the event sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association are University of the East, Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas.

Registration is free and is now ongoing, with deadline set on Nov. 5.

Espinas touted as No. 1 PBL rookie

GABRIEL Espinas, who made history by winning the NCAA Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year in the same season that he led the PCU Dolphins to their first ever title, is expected to lead the cast of neophytes in the PBL Rookie Camp.

The athletic Espinas, the Dolphins' double-double specialist, could end up the top pick if he decides to make the jump to the league.

Other Dolphins who are expected to join the camp are Dennis Bartolome, Joel Solis and Denyl John Santos.

Sweet-shooting Conrad Fritz Bauson and guard Dean Apor of the Altas are also expected to show their wares along with other noted players who have already confirmed their participation in the event.

Deadline for the submission of Draft forms will be on Tuesday, before 12 noon. Veteran coach Bong Go will handle the Rookie Camp.

Among the early birds are Jerome Zaldivia, a 6-foot-1 Fil-Australian who played for Melbourne Tigers in the Division 1 of the Victoria Metro League, and Fil-Americans Kevin White and Marlon Dumbrique have already confirmed their participation in the one-day Aspirants Camp.

A total of 20 players, mostly from the NCAA, have already signified their interest to take part in the event which will serve as a preview of the incoming players who will join the Rookie Draft on Oct. 1, also at the Makati Coliseum.

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SPORTSWATCH

National Drag race at Clark

THE PETRON Blaze Shootout National Drag Race Championship Series will be holding its third leg tomorrow at the Spur road inside Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga. Teams from Manila, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cabanatuan, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Dagupan and Baguio are expected to join this event. Registration starts at 1 p.m. and race proper is expected to begin at 7 p.m. Up for grabs are trophies and cash prizes for Professional, Hotstreet and Sportsman. For details, call 0916-3121050 and look for Liza.

Power Race kicks off Nov. 21

THE NEW Balance 25K Power Race will be held for the third straight year on Nov. 21, featuring a new route that will see the race starting and ending at the Global City inside Fort Bonifacio. Anton Gonzales, president of Planet Sports which is backing the New Balance Power Race, said prizes at stake this year are P25,000 cash for the first place in the open division (male/female) and two entries to the Queenstown Marathon: one for the fastest runner in the 10k wearing New Balance M1050 and another one from the winning team in the 10k Corporate category.

Siargao Surfing Cup Classic 2004

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism, the local government of General Luna in Surigao del Norte and Globe Handyphone present the Siargao Surfing Cup Classic 2004. Siargao is home to the reef break Cloud Nine, rated one of the top 100 surf spots in the world. This year's contest is expected to equal, or even surpass, last year's exciting competition, which saw 15 world-ranked surfers from Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Hawaii, California and France, and 13 top Filipino surfers battling it out for top honors in the local and international categories. The national competition will be held today up to Sunday.

Volleyball tourney tomorrow

VOLLEYBALL takes centerstage in the 2nd Philippine Schools, Colleges and Universities Athletic Association starting tomorrow at the Eulogio Amang Institute of Science and Technology (Earist) Gym in Manila. A brief opening ceremony will usher in the hostilities starting at 8:30 a.m. Federesio Camarao, president of TUP-Manila and PSCUAA Council of Presidents chair, will be the guest speaker. A four-game bill is on tap with last year's women's division runner-up TUP-Manila taking on Asian Institute for Maritime Studies at 8:30 a.m.; PMMSC clashing with TUP-Taguig at 10 a.m.; and Bulacan State University colliding with Philsca. In the lone men's division game, Philsca will test the mettle of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig at 1 p.m.

Bengay non-ranking tourney

KELVIN Ang of PNP-Victor stormed past Arnie Filler, 15-3, 15-3, to lead 15 other players to the round of 16 in the first Bengay Badminton Showdown-Philippine Non-Ranking Tournament which got under way over the weekend at the Club 650 Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City. Also posting straight-set victories in the centerpiece Open division of the inaugural staging of the event organized by (Methyl Salicylate + Menthol) Bengay were Joel Andres of MPC, who trounced Francis Salas, 15-5, 15-2, and Ace Domingo of UP-Diliman, who prevailed over Patrick Cruz, 17-4, 15-5. Meanwhile, competition in the two weekend elims resumes today also at Club 650 with the finals slated Sept. 29-30 at the SM Megamall Atrium, Building A in Pasig City.

Perpetual Help-Molino scores

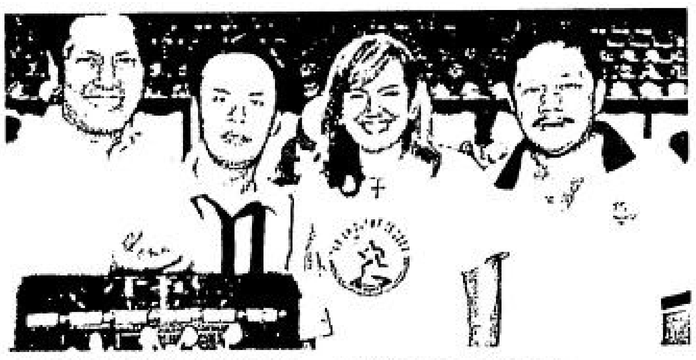
THE HIGH school teams of the University of Perpetual Help Dalta System-Molino continued their consistent showing following pulsating victories recently in the 5th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) volleyball competitions at the St. Francis of Assisi College System-Bacoor campus. The Altas high school volleybelles outlasted the girls of St. Joseph Academy, 25-14, 21-25, 25-22, 18-25, 15-10, for their fourth victory and a firmer hold on second place behind leader SFACS-Bacoor in this 11-member athletic league featuring the top schools of Southern Luzon. Earlier, Perpetual Help's high school boys had a more impressive 23-25, 25-17, 25-20, 26-24 victory to fortify their grip of second spot behind pace-setting SFACS-Bacoor.

PCC 4-stag derby tonight

COCKFIGHT aficionados can expect more than 60 big-time fights in another edition of "Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association 4-Stag Derby" tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free as sponsors. This will be the second stag derby of PCCA, according to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Alan Tan's bet, Vertical Limit, topped the first derby last Friday after tallying 3.5 points. Meanwhile, the "2-Cock Super Ulutan" is set on Tuesday with over 140 participants. For inquiries, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

Northwoods hosts KGB tilt

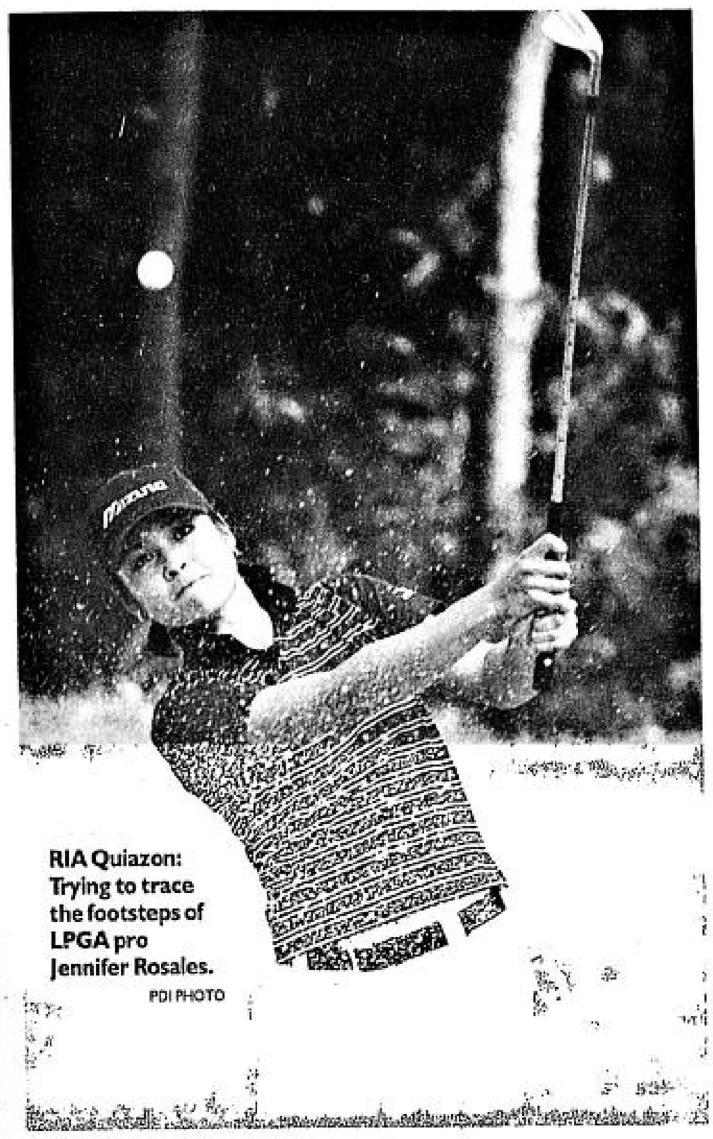
ROYAL Northwoods Golf and Country Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, will be the battle ground for the Kapisanan ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast (KGB) in its monthly tournament today. The tournament is supported by KZG by Custom Clubmakers. A hole-in-one prize is at stake on the par 3 hole No. 3 plus a share in Buenavista Nature Park and Country Club in Tagaytay courtesy of Ledesco Development Corp.



TURISMOLYMPICS 2004: (From left) Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan, Django Bustamante, Sports Tourism director Cynthia Carrion and Efren Reyes grace the opening of the three-day Turismolympics 2004 recently.

LPGA SECTIONAL

Quiazon survives cut



RIA Quiazon: Trying to trace the footsteps of LPGA pro Jennifer Rosales.

PDI PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

FORMER Philippine team standout Ria Quiazon shot a second round three-over 75 on Thursday to make the 36-hole cut of the LPGA's sectional qualifying at the Mission Hills' Palmer Course in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Quiazon, who represented the country in both the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games, now has a 146 total, two-over par at the 6,290-yard layout which is the venue of one of two sectionals the LPGA is holding for players who will be admitted to the tour next year.

Homegrown Filipina Heidi Chua was not as lucky, tumbling out after a 77 and a 74 to miss the cut by three with her 151 total.

American Wendy Martin wrested the lead from the celebrated Paula Creamer, shooting an ace-spiked 64 to be at 6-under and tie Mollie Frankhauser (66) at the top heading into the final two rounds.

Creamer, at 18 the third-ranked amateur in the United States, dropped to 21st spot after shooting a 77. She shot a 67 in the opening round.

The pretty Quiazon is in a 13-way logjam at 32nd spot.

Only the top 30 scores and ties will advance to the Final Qualifying Tournament later in the year.

Twenty-four other countries outside of the United States and a total of 187 players teed it up on Wednesday, hoping to book slots to the Final Qualifying and not go through another sectional scheduled in Oct. 5 to 8 at the Plantation Golf Club in Venice, Florida.

Eagle Ridge Invt'l fires off tomorrow

THE SECOND Eagle Ridge Invitational, the member-guest golf tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, will be staged this weekend with more than 150 teams vying for honors in three handicap divisions.

The big roster will be disputing the trophies and signature golf bags at stake for the team champions in Divisions I, II and III in the 36-hole tournament backed by Nissan Commonwealth, Globe Platinum and CIGI Insurance.

Nissan Commonwealth is providing the biggest package of two Nissan X-Trails worth a million each.

One is up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize on designated holes of both Norman and Faldo courses of Eagle that will serve as the venues for the tourney. It will be shared equally in case more than one player scores an ace.

Anybody from among participants will drive home the other X-Trail since it will be raffled off as the grand prize during the awarding ceremonies expected to be graced by Sta. Lucia Realty EVP Vicente Santos and Eagle Ridge project director Wini Gob.

Donguines streaks to 4th straight win

TAGAYTAY CITY—Fide Master Fernie Donguines streaked to his fourth straight win to gain a piece of the lead after eight rounds yesterday in the National Chess Championships at the Tagaytay International Convention Center.

After stopping the unbeaten run of erstwhile leader International Master Jayson Gonzales in the seventh round Wednesday night, Donguines handed 10-year old Wesley So his second loss in the round-robin tournament.

The 1994 Moscow Olympiad Board 5 bronze medalist trapped the prodigy's rook in the 23rd to force So to resign after 25 moves of their Bishop Opening.

Donguines' string of victories pushed his total to 5.5 points, the same output of IM Chito Chito Garma, who beat FM Jesse Noel Sales in the seventh and drew with IM Petronio Roca in just 16 moves of Ruy Lopez Opening in the eighth.

The event, sponsored by Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and the First Gentleman Foundation, will fill the last three slots in the men's and the four slots in the women's team that will compete in this year's World Chess Olympiad in Majorca, Spain.

Marlon Bernardino

Teachers head RP in football tourney

JO Loren isn't just a member of the national women's football team—she's a public-school teacher and private-school team coach too.

So are six other players on the 18-strong RP squad that national coach Marlon Maro will bring to the Asean Football Federation's 2004 Women's Championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 9.

Loren, skipper of the Filipina booters, teaches at the Mariano Marcos Memorial High School in Quezon City and also coaches Far Eastern University.

Merlie Acibar does the same for Lakandula High School and De La Salle University, as with Ariel Marigen (teacher at World Citi Colleges, coach of Colegio de San Agustin), Brenda Gayagoy (Benigno Aquino High School and Xavier Football Club), Letecia Bautista and Karen Cacho (Ateneo de Manila University) and Malou Rubio (FEU). Rubio is also the PFF-Adidas Women's Football Player of the Year.

Another notable is La Salle alumna Marielle Benitez, the current Female Athlete of the Year and Women's Footballer of the Year in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and last summer's coach and trainer. Also with the team is Karen Cacho of the U-Ha/Southville International School football club.

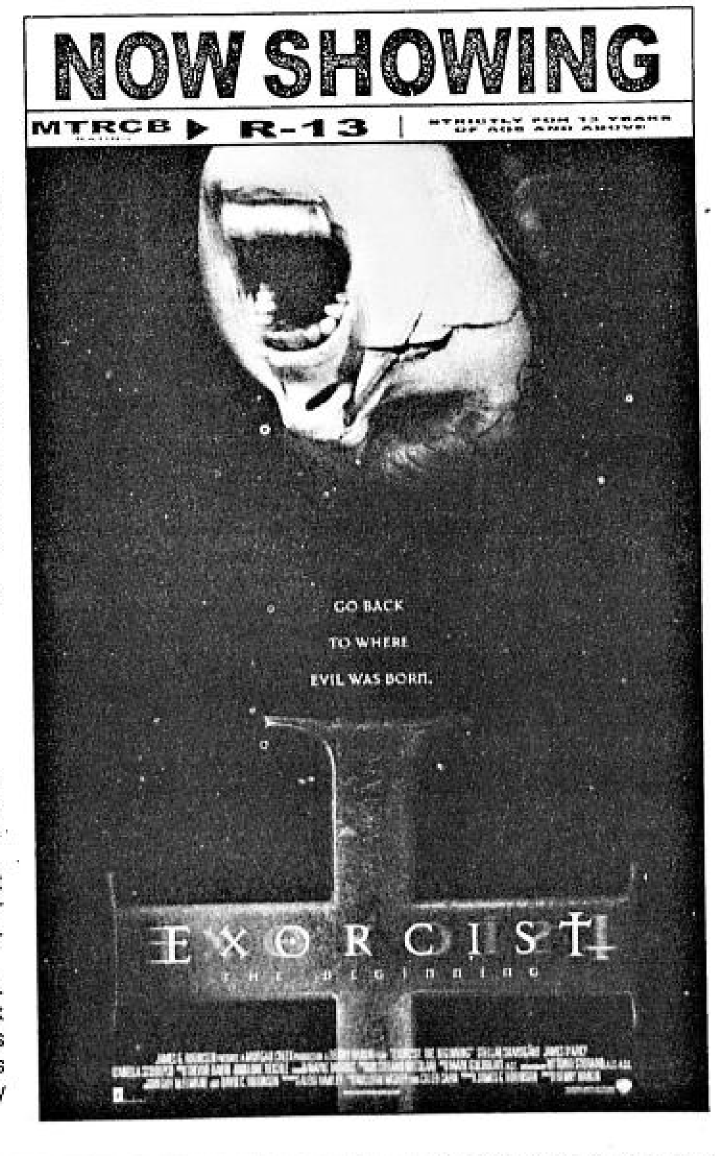
Mari Martinez, the nationals' team manager and delegation head, said the "teacher-footballers" bring positive values to the team, which also includes assistant coach Freddie Estacion, goalkeeper coach Florante Valencia and physiotherapist Vic Balaoing.

Cristy makes Fifa committee

FIFA, the world governing body for football, recently named former Philippine Olympic Committee president Cristy Ramos to its Committee for Women's Football and Fifa Women's competitions for 2004-2006.

Fifa general secretary Urs Linsi informed Ramos of her appointment as a committee member through a letter dated Aug. 26 from Zurich, Switzerland.

As a member of the Fifa Women's Committee, Ramos is expected to promote and help in the development of women's football worldwide and deal with other matters related to the organization of the Fifa Women's World Cup and other events.



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THE BEGINNING

MJCI to stage Juvenile Colts and Fillies

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. will stage the Philracom-sponsored second leg of the Juvenile Colts and Fillies on Sunday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Seven colts and eight fillies are entered for the two P1 million races, both set over 1,500 meters. Vying for the colt title are Best of Circle (GA Gahopo), Jetway (MF Daquis), Money for Rap (DH Borbe Jr.), Montezuma (FM Raquel Jr.), Presidentiable (ES Aguila), Real Spicy (PR Dilema) and War Alert (RC Baldonido). Competing in the fillies division are Eye Candy (JB Guce), In Command (JT Zarate), Lamborghini (PR Dilema), Ocean Deep (ES Aguila), One Vision (RC Baldonido), Speedster (FM Raquel Jr.), Victoria Peak (VR Dilema) and With Valor JB (Cordero).

Winners of each division will take home P600,000 each.

First leg Colts' winner Speed Majesty was injured and is out of contention for the Juvenile Colt title.

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Silent Operator 2. Sir John 3. Smart Harry 4. In D Wind 5. Beautiful Jaeda
Race 2--1. Coolmore 2. Dennis D Menace 3. Solo Singer 4. Heartland
Race 3--1. Noble Principality 2. Sunny Sky/Tender Value 3. Doña Luisa 4. Musika 5. Cable Car 6. Señor Presidente
Race 4--1. Hand in Hand 2. Rule and Reign 3. Golden Cat 4. Well Noted
Race 5--1. Portal Dancer 2. Jackpot 3. D Pen Traveller 4. Sweet Inspiration 5. Voltes May
Race 6--1. Real Tough 2. Luck of the Irish 3. Aba Aba Aba 4. Stunning
Race 7--1. Money Order 2. Do It David/Seeing Red 3. Long Hitter 4.Give and Take 5. Golden Snakehotdog 6. Fortius
Race 8--1. Last Hazm 2. Sambat 3. Silent Wind 4. Patikim 5. King Rick
Race 9--1. Earth Angel 2. Express Strike 3. Lady Be Gold 4. Ceasar's Inn 5. Baby My Beloved 6. Mighty Dragon

INQBox

Question of the Week

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Key in: inquirer 2bu name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
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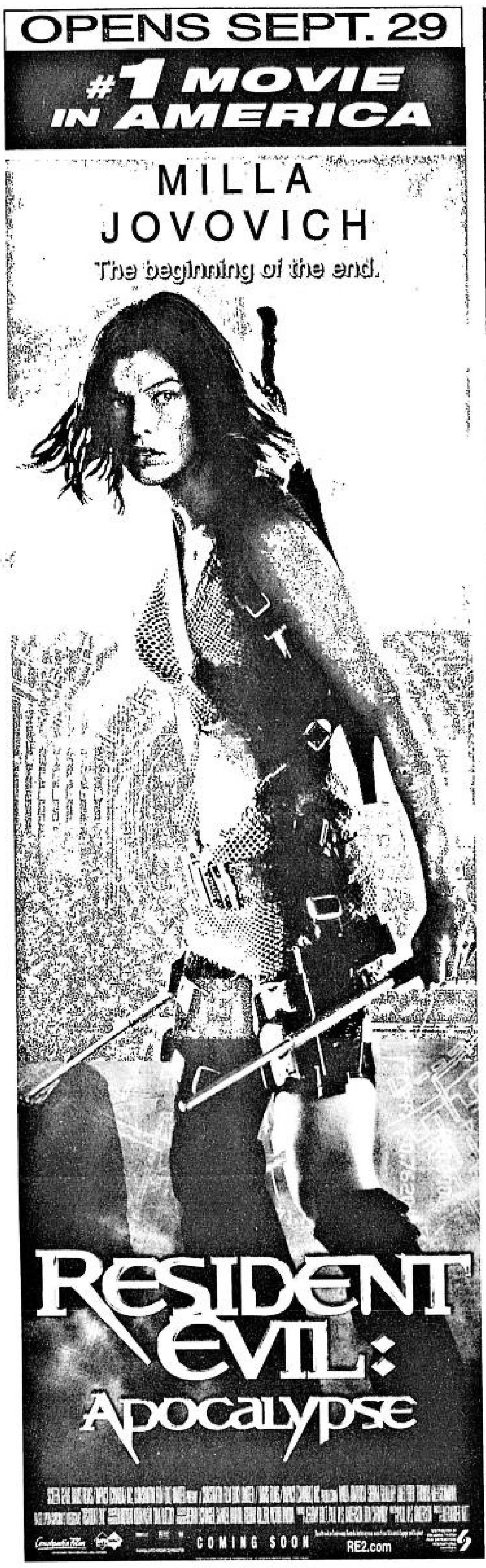
Inquirer
menu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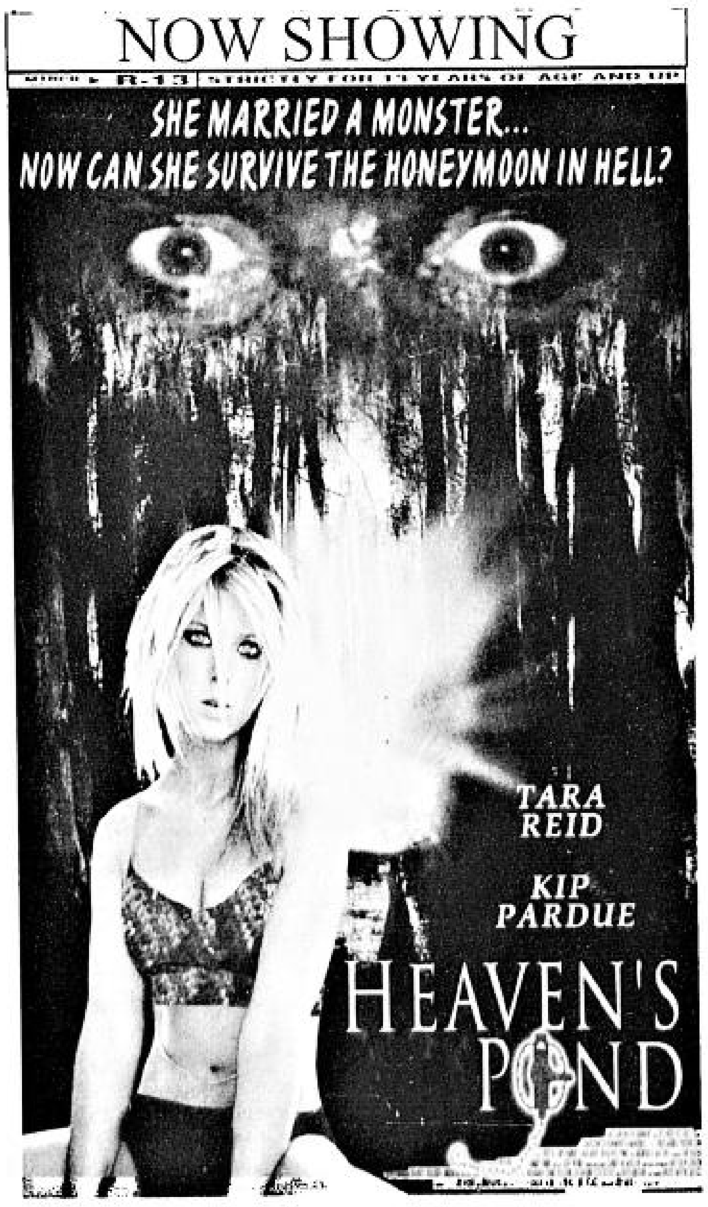
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PG-13

2 BOURNE SUPREMACY
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 10:00
R-13

3 THE TERMINAL
11:05, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45
GP

4 THE EXORCIST
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
PG-13

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FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R13 12:10,2:35,5:00,7:25,9:50	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 1:30,3:45,6:00,8:15,10:20

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LMF. 10.05PM (PG - 13)

3 THE TERMINAL
FS 12 40PM, 3 20PM, 6 00PM
LMF 8 40PM (GP)

4 EXORCIST
FS 11 45AM, 2 00PM, 4 15PM, 6 30PM,
LMF. 8 45PM (R - 13)

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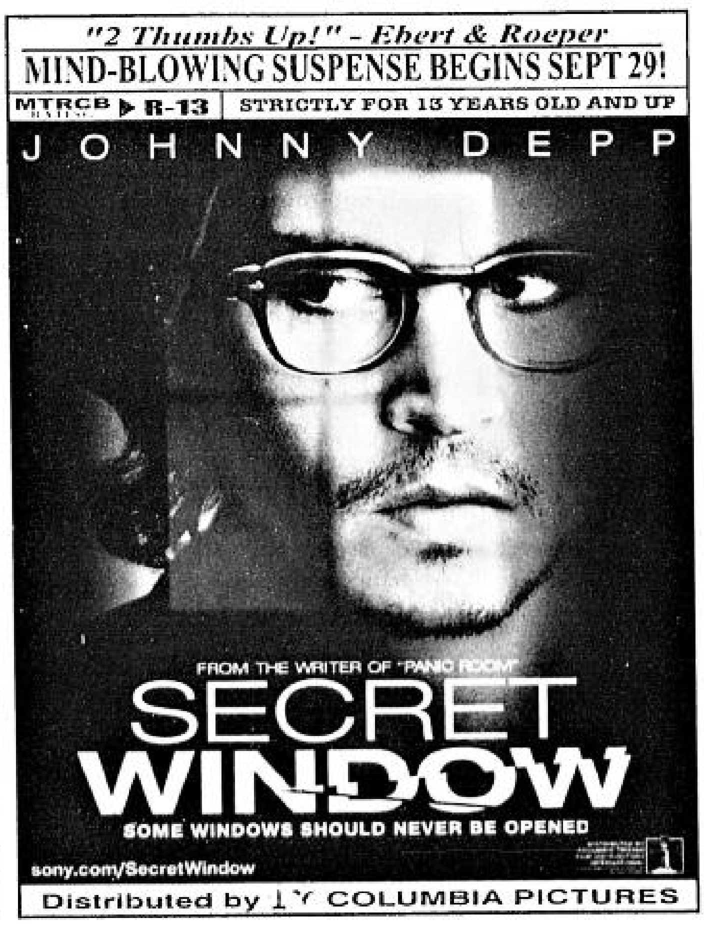
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This month, Benjarong also launches its Group Packages perfect for lunch meetings, small parties or reservations for its Private Rooms. The Group Packages are available for groups of 5, 10, 12 and 14 and prices range from P2,500++ to P6,800++.

Both Executive Set Menu and the Group Package Menu include appetizers, salad, soup, main course, and dessert. Experience authentic Thai cuisine only at Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant. Available from Sept. 1 to 30. For queries or reservations, please call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333

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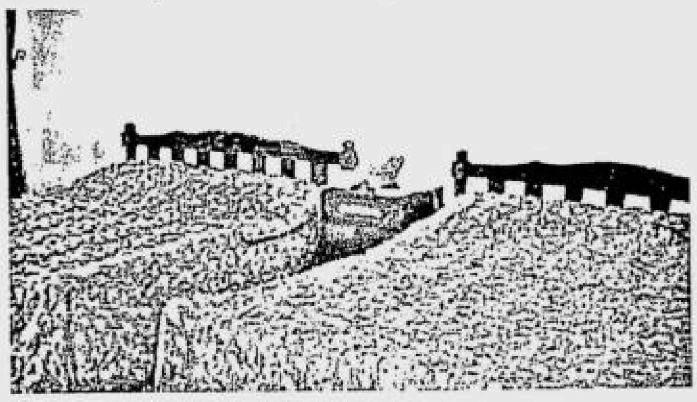

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Weekend bonus at City Garden Suites-Manila

CITY Garden Suites-Manila has good news to everybody as it extends it Weekend Special Promo. For every two days stay during weekend get an additional one day room accommodation for free. This amazing promo comes with free use of KTV for 2 hours, free breakfast for two at the Café Miranda Restaurant, free newspaper, and free use of the Internet at the Business Center for 1 hour.

For inquiries and reservations please contact 536-1451 or email citymanila@citygardenhotels.com

Mandarin Oriental's mid-autumn celebration

TO CELEBRATE the second most important festival in the Chinese calendar, Mandarin Oriental, Manila decks its Captain's Bar and Tin Hau restaurant with lanterns to welcome the moon, in its "Sheung Yuet" night, on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m., on the eve of the mid-autumn - with a promise of a trip to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific Airways and a two-night stay in a deluxe harbour view room, with American breakfast for two at The Excelsior, Hong Kong for the lucky raffle prize winner.

In keeping with local Filipino-Chinese tradition, Tin Hau will make available some dice on each table, should families wish to have their own pua tiong chu (dice game) following a hearty buffet dinner. The dinner price of P988++ and P588++ for a child under 12 years old, includes the pre-dinner show.

From Sept. 27 to 29, apart from a special buffet menu, Tin Hau offers two se ten-course set menus which include stir-fried fresh scallop and squid with walnut, steamed grouper with bean crumb sauce, baked seafood rice in Portuguese sauce, pan-fried fresh prawn in spicy sauce, shark's fin soup with crab roe, deep-fried grouper in chrysanthemum shape with sweet and sour sauce, stewed pork knuckles with sea moss, marinated pigeon with soy sauce, to name some.

Moon cakes are also available from now until Sept. 29 at Tin Hau, the Mandarin Deli, and at the lobby booth, and are boxed in singles, in four and eight pieces.

For inquiries, call Tin Hau at 750 8888.

BELLEVUE HOTEL PRESENTS BELLEVUE REWARDS

The Bellevue Hotel launches Bellevue Rewards, its exclusive club for bookers this October 1 at the hotel's Laguna Ballroom. The premier social and business hub south of Metro Manila organizes a tropical luau for a casual get-together, highlighted by a special raffle with cruises and trips as major prizes. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Ai Ai ends affair with director for her kids' sake

NEW LEAF. Ai Ai turns 40 in November.

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

COMEDY queen Ai Ai de la Alas admitted that she recently ended her almost three-year affair with a woman director from ABS-CBN for her children's sake and because she wanted "to turn a new leaf."

"I'm turning 40 soon (Nov. 11) and I feel I'm at a crossroads of my life," Ai Ai said last week.

At the same time, she said her kids Sancho Vito, Shaun Nicolo and Sophia Andrea were another reason why she broke up with her lover.

"I realized how much my children love me," she said. "They didn't say anything against that relationship. They speak up only now because it's already over."

Her children, she said, have seen her go through other heartaches and hardships in the name of love and they were traumatized.

She said she's in good terms with actor-singer Miguel Vera, the father of two of her children, but she denies rumors of reconciliation. "*Ayaw na*, we'll just be friends," she said.

She said she doesn't have a new special someone now. "I will take a rest from falling in love for one or two years," she said. "I really want change after two years of a relationship."

She confessed to feeling bad about breaking her ex-lover's heart. "I've learn a lot from her and I have no regrets about getting into a relationship with her," she shared. "We were like siblings. We shopped together, something that I couldn't do with a boyfriend. Now that we're apart, I miss having someone to talk to. Although I hurt her, I know she'll forgive me. We're still friends."

How would she feel if her daughter Andrea got into a lesbian relationship someday, Ai Ai said she would pray hard that it wouldn't happen. "I give my kids everything so that they won't make a mistake," she said. "That's the reason I became like this, I'm confused.

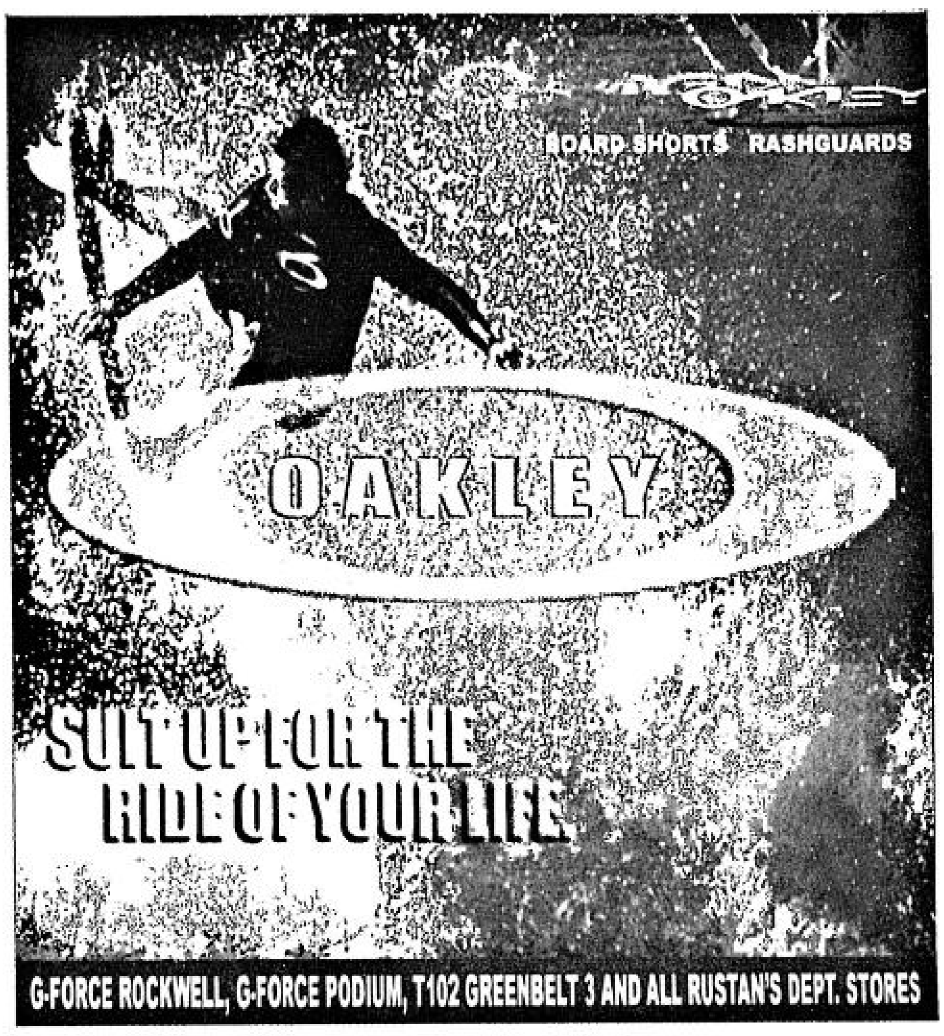
"My children are my foremost priority in life," she said. "I love being with them. When I'm bored, I put on a wig and tell my eldest that we'll go out. *Pini*-playtime *ko sila!*"

She said she has been to Sancho's school, La Salle Greenhills, at least five times. The last time she went, she gave a talk on family life. "Fortunately, I have a priest friend who helped me think of what to say." She has been asked to be PTA president, too, she said.

The single mother said she still dreams of one day getting married, particularly at the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros. But when told that a lot of celebrity couples married in that historic church eventually split up, like Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion, she said, "Where did *Ate* Vi (Vilma Santos) get married? In Lipa? I think I'll get married there, too, just to be safe."

Vilma, mayor of Lipa City in Batangas province, is married to Sen. Ralph Recto.

AI AI/ A2-6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Cell phone users, candy eaters should stay out of theaters, says Kevin Spacey

SHOW STOPPER

LONDON—Hollywood star Kevin Spacey has lost his patience with British theater audiences. It's time to turn off the mobile phones and stop rustling candy wrappers.

"It's a phone-free zone," the Oscar-winning actor said of the Old Vic, the venerable London theater where he is artistic director.

"My feeling is, if people don't know how to behave they shouldn't come," Spacey told BBC Radio early this week. "You have to respect the fact that there is some degree of behavior that we expect in the theater."

He was also enraged by "people opening candy bars thinking if they open it slowly it will be less annoying than if they open it fast."

Spacey, who won a best actor Oscar for "American Beauty," hit the headlines earlier this year by claiming he was mugged walking his dog at 4 a.m. in a London park and then changing his story to say he had fallen for a con to steal his mobile phone. *Reuters*

SPACEY. Phone-free zone

The Boys of Blue at Araneta!

The young and young-at-heart grow faint and lightheaded at the mention of latest pop sensation Blue out of the UK. And is it any wonder? These guys are taking the SMART Buddy route for a one-night performance this Saturday, September 25, 2004, 8:30 pm at the Araneta Coliseum.

Buy any SMART Buddy phonekit in any SMART Wireless Center in Metro Manila and get one (1) FREE concert ticket. Promo will run till the day of the concert, so don't delay 'cause this is a show you won't want to miss!

What's more, just do a SIM Swap on the night of the event at the Araneta Coliseum and get either a FREE Blue poster, CD or an exclusive picture with the band member's autograph. With collectibles like these, Blue's amazing concert promises to be more memorable than ever.

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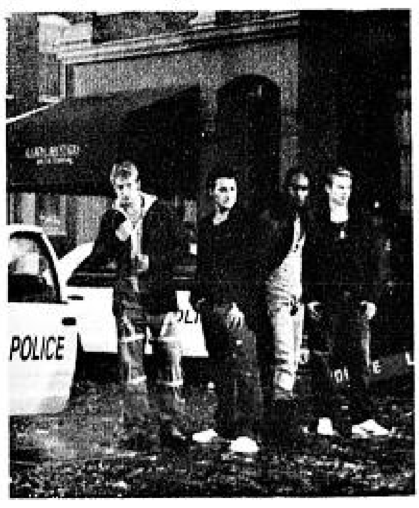
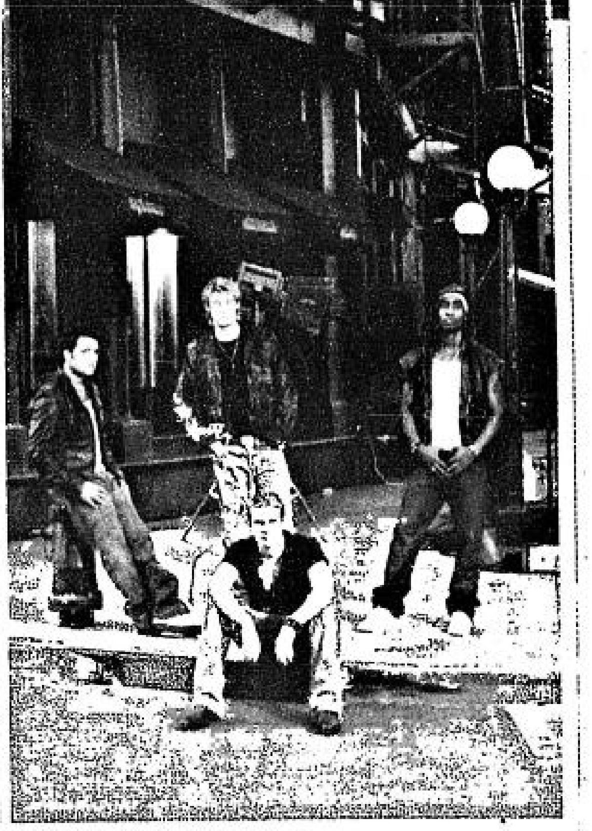
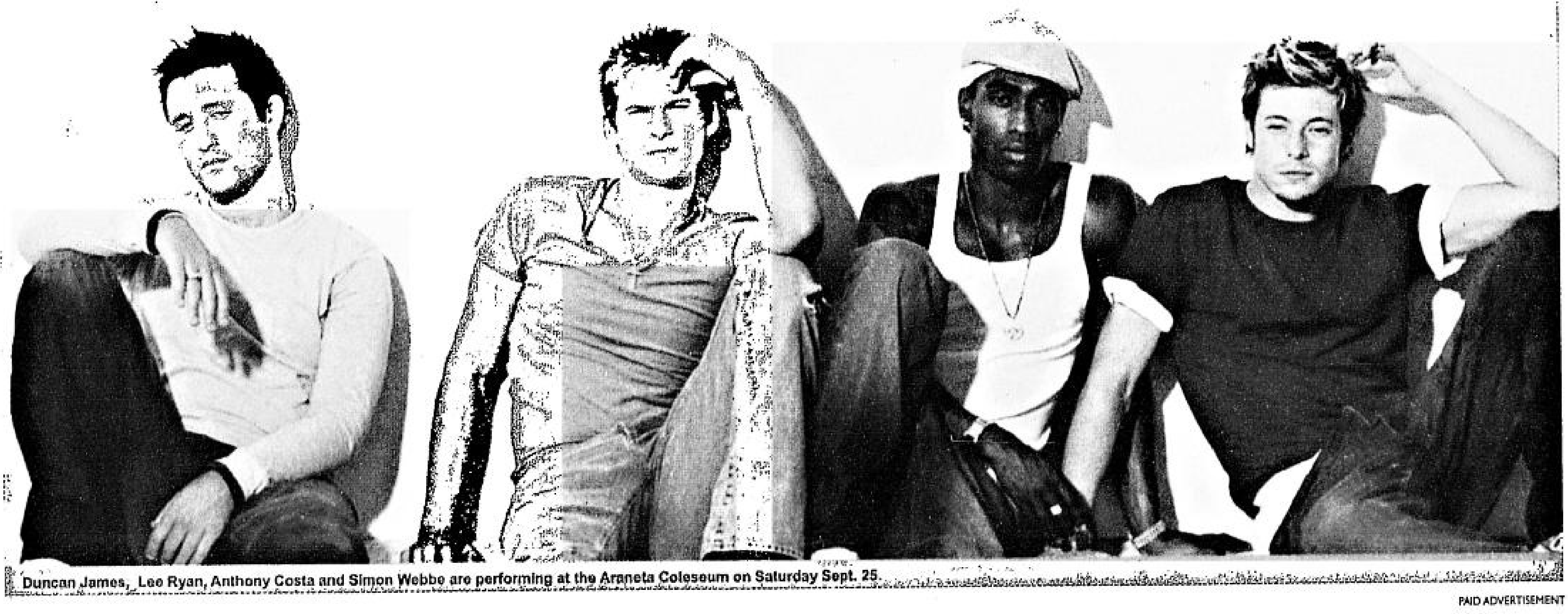





Duncan James, Lee Ryan, Anthony Costa and Simon Webbe are performing at the Araneta Coleseum on Saturday Sept. 25.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

What TV hosting is all about

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ALL of a sudden, **Carmina Villaroel** has become a ubiquitous presence on GMA-7 shows. She's currently hosting the Sunday lifestyle program "All About You," co-hosts the weekday talk-variety women's show "Sis" and is a frequent guest on various other programs.

Carmina's livewire personality does enliven those shows. Unfortunately, she appears to think that TV hosting is a matter of looking good, talking a mile a minute, reading your spiels well, and keeping things perky, and not much more.

Well, hosting TV shows does require all of those elements, but it certainly doesn't stop there. A good TV host has to have a personality and character that's rich and textured, an agile intelligence, and a sensibility versatile enough to empathize with all sorts of situations and guests. Measured by these more important factors, Carmina is found wanting.

To make things worse, she has a thin, loud, sharp voice that grates on the ear. She must remember to modulate her speaking style because TV is supposed to be an intimate medium.

When she isn't reading her spiels, Carmina ad-libs away with cheerful abandon, and this is another liability on her part. She should tell herself that a good TV host doesn't say *everything* that comes to mind.

For proper focus and build-up, greater selectivity should be exercised, or else all that shallow and pointless yakkity-yakking can give some viewers a headache.

Carmina has lovely features, but she occasionally compromises this plus factor with make-up that's too strong and harsh, particularly for the daytime shows she hosts. Is this her way of visually punching up her perkiness on the tube? If so, the effort is counter-productive, because the look is too strong.

But these are minor points. Carmina's major concern should be to develop her mind and heart so she can more interestingly and insightfully do justice to the great range of topics and guests she interacts with, particularly on her weekday show.

As for "All About You," it used to have chic and well-born young women as hosts, but for three seasons now, it has opted to take a more popular, show biz bent, with hosts like **Lorna Tolentino**, **Pia Guanio**, and now, Carmina.

This must be the production's way of "relaxing" the show's projection, and expanding its viewership base. We understand this intent, but we submit it has diminished the show's uniqueness.

The willy-nilly way Carmina hosts the show now, it has become just one of many lifestyle programs that do pretty much the same thing on the tube. Where's the "unique viewing proposition" in that?

Perhaps hosts like **Lucy Torres**, **Dawn Zulueta** and **Mikee Cojuangco** set the right, enlightened hosting thrust, but it's now gone the way of all show biz flash. What a waste.

Feedback

FROM **Sally Necor**: "It was with great pleasure and nostalgia that I read your great article on **Vivien Leigh**. I have always been a fan of hers. It was so sad to see such a great actress so tormented.

"I am an American retired here and currently bedridden in a hospital. But your article brought me back to the years I enjoyed when I lived in Hollywood. When I was small, my uncle would tell me stories of Miss Leigh. Yes, those were the great days!

* * *

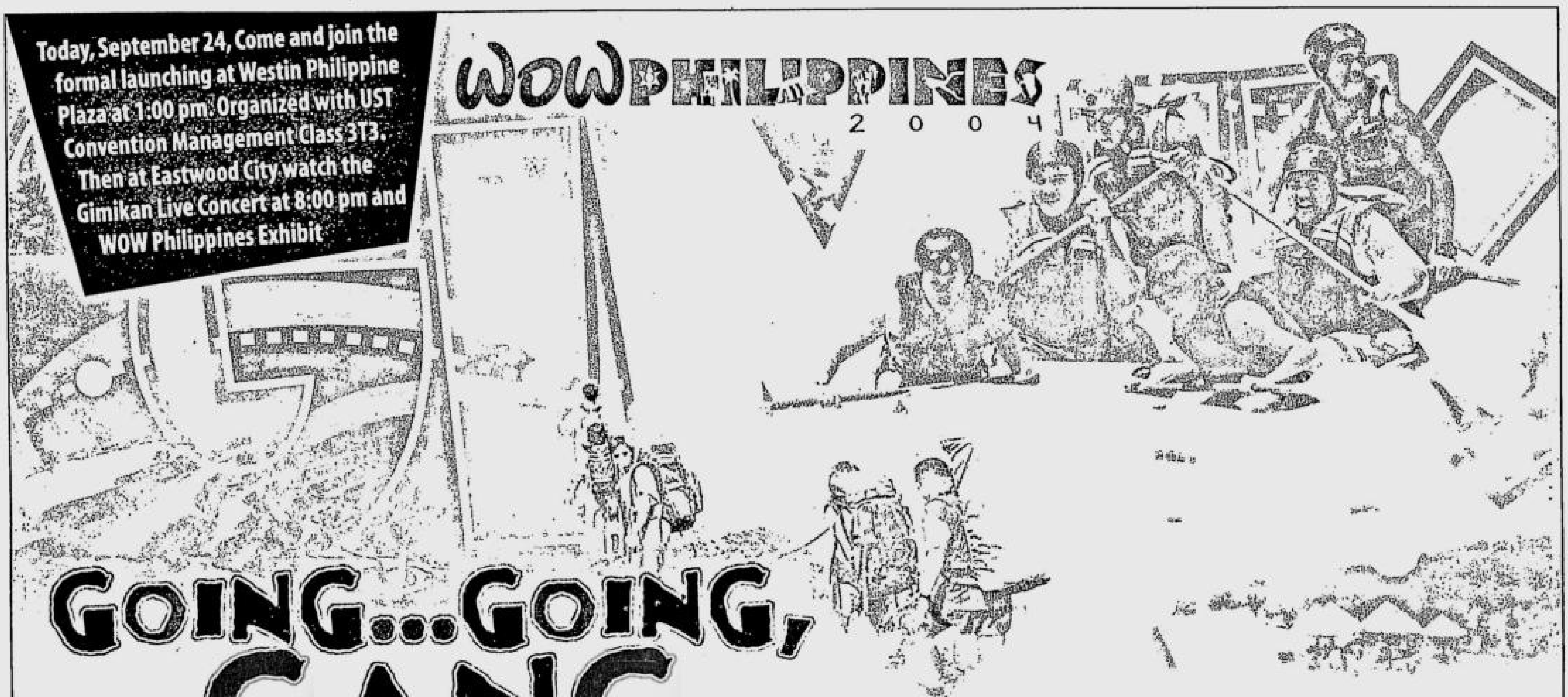
From **Archie O. Rubio** of Pasay City: "Your article on Vivien Leigh made me realize that old movie stars shouldn't be forgotten. Their excellent achievements should inspire today's stars to do just as well, if not better. Please feature other movie greats to add to our film knowledge and appreciation."

'Full Throttle'

AT 8 p.m. on Sept. 26, HBO screens "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," starring **Cameron Diaz**, **Drew Barrymore** and **Lucy Liu**. This time around, the female crimebusters go undercover to retrieve two missing Halo Rings, which contain top-secret encrypted information detailing the identity and location of each person in the US government's Federal Witness Protection Program.

Search for TV host

THE DISCOVERY Channel is looking for a vibrant and enthusiastic English-speaking individual who has what it takes to host an episode of the popular "Globetrekker" show. On Oct. 2 and 3, the channel will hold open auditions in Singapore. Auditions will also be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Oct. 10 and 11. Interested parties are invited to send in videos. For more details, log on to www.seasia.discovery.com/traveladventure.



Today, September 24, Come and join the formal launching at Westin Philippine Plaza at 1:00 pm. Organized with UST Convention Management Class 3T3. Then at Eastwood City watch the Gimikan Live Concert at 8:00 pm and WOW Philippines Exhibit

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MEDIAWISE COMMUNICATIONS

‘Amazing Race’ contestants unaware they were welcomed by President’s daughter

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

MY WIFE Ellen and I were in Subic last week with our daughter Sam when we caught "The Amazing Race" on AXN. Yup, you know the one—the episode where the contestants arrived here in the Philippines and tried to outdo each other in decorating jeepneys, plowing a field with the help of a carabao, and getting off a non-air conditioned bus and risking life and limb trying to flag down a cab along Edsa.

If you saw that episode, you must have also seen a familiar petite lady in a *terno* standing next to host Phil Keoghan and greeting the contestants when they arrived at the Coconut Palace for that episode’s pit stop. Yup, that was none other than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s daughter, Luli Arroyo.

"I WAS nervous," says Luli Arroyo.

Since my wife and I, as well as many other people, judging by the blogs and online forums, have been wondering how Luli got that "gig" and whether the contestants knew that she was the First Daughter, I e-mailed Luli asking her if it was OK to ask a few questions. And, just as in the past, she did not disappoint and was more than willing to help make this story possible.

Luli, who has been watching "The Amazing Race" since its first season, said she definitely enjoyed the experience. She recounted how she ended up becoming a part of Season 5.

"I was asked early this year by Jun Juban, the local producer, if I wanted to participate," she said. "Of course I said yes! I know I’m not photo- or telegenic, but hey, I was asked, I didn’t volunteer. Jun said they liked that I was simple and that what they perceived of my character was a determining factor in choosing me to do the Manila pit stop welcome."

Positive people

Now, the question that many people have been asking: Were the contestants aware that she was the President’s daughter? And what was it like working with Keoghan, whom many fans consider the best reality TV host (well, apart from "Survivor’s" Jeff Probst, but what many fans like is that Keoghan is nice, low-key and doesn’t "steal the show" from the contestants).

"I don’t think the participants were aware of that," said Luli. "Phil was nice; we chatted a bit. His assistant, Lisa, was very accommodating. The members of the camera crew were also friendly. I was also introduced to the foreign producer and he was so enthusiastic about our

'AMAZING/ A2-4

Stars, pols in Celebrity Karting Challenge

SHOW STOPPER

BIG NAMES in show business and politics gather for a night of fun, speed and competition at the Manila Speedzone at The Fort in Makati City tonight.

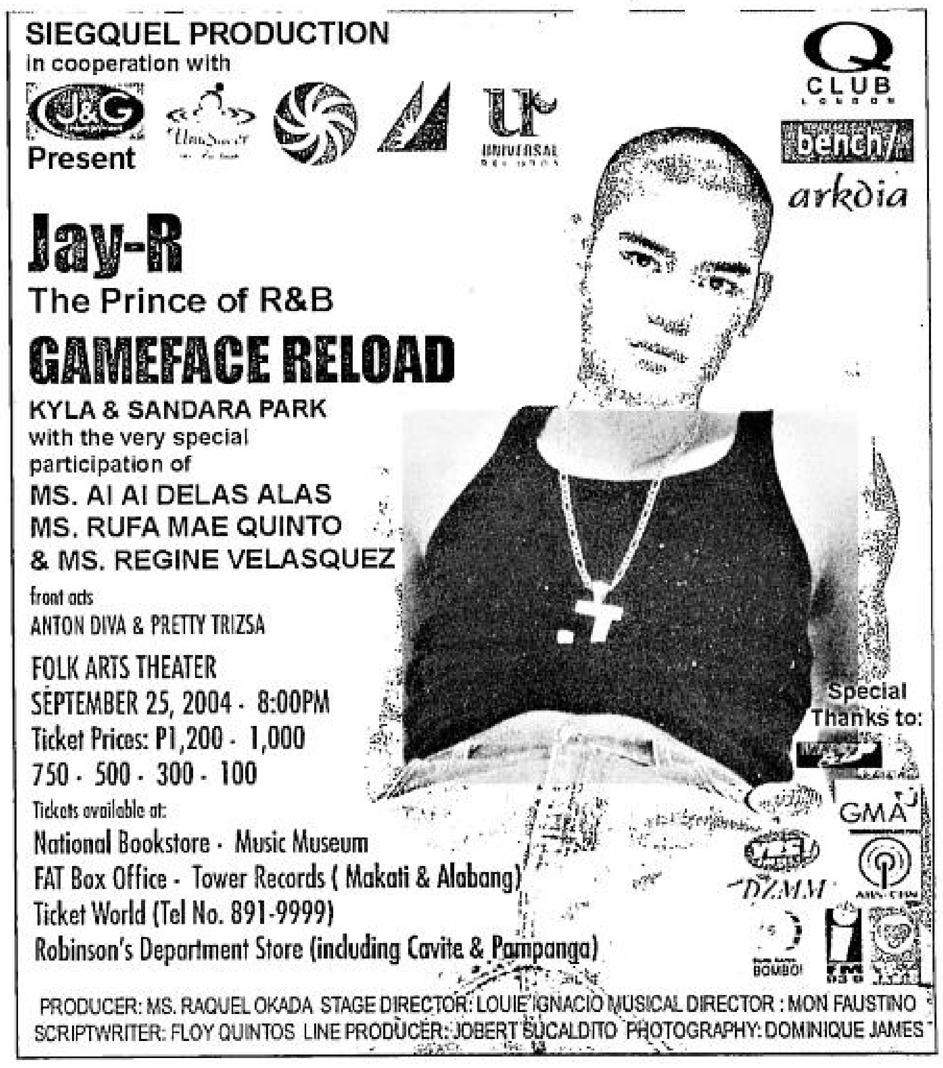
The Nivea Celebrity Karting Challenge is organized by Rightlink Productions. It will bring together the likes of Sen. Mar Roxas and congressmen Francis Escudero, Albert Garcia, Miguel Zubiri and Miles Roces as well as show biz stars like Richard Gomez, Richard Gutierrez, Dingdong Dantes, Dominic Ochoa, Arnel Ignacio, Joey Marquez, Gary Estrada, John Estrada, Marc Nelson, Brad Turvey, KC Montero, Tonton Gutierrez, Carlos Agassi, Albert Martinez, Ariel Rivera and others.

The karting competition has two male categories: Men’s Relay Challenge and the Individual Male Challenge. Participants in the Female Individual Challenge include Sarah Meier, Diana Zubiri, Patricia Javier, LJ Moreno, Juliana Palermo, Agot Isidro, Rica Peralejo, Jackie Forster, Raven Villanueva, Melanie Marquez, Andrea del Rosario, Sheree, Dyan Castillejo, Karel Marquez.

SEN. MAR Roxas is one of the celebrities to see action tonight at Speedzone.

The umbrella girls and flag-off girl will be Viva Hot Babes Asia Agcaoili, Myles Hernandez, Andrea del Rosario and Gwen Garci.

Organized by Rightlink Productions and presented by Nivea for Men, the Nivea Celebrity Karting Challenge is also brought to you by Ambi Pur Car, The Real Perfume for Your Car, Manila Bulletin and Magic 89.9. It is also supported by Kiwi Fresh Force, Puma, Cebu Pacific, Rudy Project, Lonestar Ultra Low Carb Beer, California Pizza Kitchen, Comfort Zone Café Bar, BMW, PLDT My DSL, Team Birel Philippines, Diagon Inc. European trophies, Bayo and Cosmetiderm Aesthetic Laser Surgicentre.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4 GOLD (DTS) EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FENG SHUI
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4 SOON TO OPEN

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3 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL
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2 FENG SHUI
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'Amazing Race' contestants...

From page A2-3

country and admired my mother, knowing how difficult it is to govern a country.

"Overall it was a pleasant experience, all very positive people. I think that's one thing I learned from that afternoon, that you get more things done and you're a happier person if you have a positive attitude."

Asked if she would ever consider joining an adventure race ("The Amazing Race," by the way, is only open to US citizens), Luli quipped: "I don't know if I'd be willing to join such a race, because I like traveling but I'd like to enjoy the places I visit rather than be under pressure—all that time spent on airplanes and in airports must be worth the sacrifice!"

'Mabuhay'

What's the most adventurous thing she has ever done?

"I've done quite a bit of traveling around the Philippines and abroad, with friends and family and by myself, and I can't really pick one experience to be the most adventurous. I think the best adventures come out of unplanned detours."

I also told her what some bloggers have been saying, that she forgot the cardinal rule in greeting guests in this country, which is to say, "Mabuhay!" So to set the record straight, I asked her what her exact greeting was and why "Mabuhay!" was missing.

"Because I was nervous," said Luli. "Also because I tried to recall the pit stop greetings I had seen and most just said 'Welcome to...' So that's what I said: 'Welcome to Manila, the Philippines!' I hope I'm forgiven?"

I have to confess that I haven't been watching the current race. For me, the best season would always be Season 3 because the characters were so colorful and the team I was rooting for won. Yes, hate me, but I supported Flo and Zach (well, OK, I was originally rooting for Jill and John Vito but it wasn't my fault they got eliminated).

Friction, conflict

Luli, however, said that of course this season, she couldn't really root for a team since she knew who would make it to the Final 4, and, of course, the results are top secret.

Asked to divulge which teams she has supported in the previous seasons went on to win, Luli replied: "I think [Season 3] should have been won by Zach. Just Zach. I rooted for the gay married couple (Chip and Reichen) and they won. This time, knowing the four teams who reached the Manila pit stop I think stopped me from rooting for other teams.

"I think this is also one of the races with more friction and conflict among the teams. The other races were as competitive, but you didn't really see too many arguments or physical tangling between teams. For me, that some teams were able to remain genial and kind despite the pressure of the race and the attitude of the other teams really showed the good character of those persons, and whether they eventually win or lose, they were able to keep their character intact—and that is more important."

E-mail the author at joeyalarilla@gmail.com and visit his blog at http://babelmachine.blogspot.com.

ABS top executives accountable for libel, GMA-7 insists

GMA Network maintains top ABS-CBN officials are accountable for the libel case GMA filed against them in connection with the use of the live Reuters video footage of the arrival of terrorist kidnapping victim Angelo de la Cruz on July 22.

In GMA Network's joint consolidated reply to all counter-affidavits of the respondents submitted to the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office last Tuesday, GMA said ABS-CBN Chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III and president and COO Luis Alejandro, along with News and Current Affairs officials Jose Ramon Olives, Jesus Maderazo, Luisita Cruz-Valdez, Jose Magsaysay Jr., Alfonso Marquez, Beth Frondoso, Maria Progena, Estonilo Reyes, Annie Eugenio, Dondi Garcia, news anchor Erwin Tulfo, and reporter Lynda Jumilla are all responsible for libel when ABS-CBN accused GMA Network of "stealing" the De la Cruz video footage.

On July 22, GMA-7 used the live Reuters video feed of the arrival of De la Cruz in its afternoon news flash, unaware that the footage had come from ABS-CBN, according to a GMA Network statement. When GMA News found out that an ABS-CBN reporter was appearing in the Reuters video feed, it immediately stopped airing the Reuters video feed.

P200-M case

ABS-CBN called GMA Network a "thief" in the former's news programs aired the same evening and the following day, said the GMA statement.

Lopez, Alejandro and Olives, in their joint counter-affidavit, denied any knowledge of and participation in the "theft," pointing out that they "are not involved in any aspect of the day-to-day operations of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs," including the broadcast of "Insider" on July 22 and of "Magandang Umaga Bayan" the following day.

GMA Network, however, said the excuse of Lopez, Alejandro and Olives is belied by the P200-million infringement case ABS-CBN had filed against GMA-7 and its officials.

ABS-CBN had said that Gozon, Duavit and GMA News and Public Affairs VP Marissa Flores, as top officials of GMA-7, had full control over the network's overall operations.

'A lie'

GMA said Lopez, Alejandro and Olives could not claim they are not responsible for approving the airing of ABS-CBN's broadcasts after saying their counterparts have the same responsibilities at GMA-7.

Since the ABS-CBN top officials do not know the internal procedure and practice in the GMA-7 News and Public Affairs Department, they must have based their allegations on the internal procedures and practices at ABS-CBN, according to the GMA statement.

Maderazo, in his defense, said he was "not privy to nor had foreknowledge or prior notice of the actual content or statements" used in ABS-CBN's news programs.

GMA Network said this was a "lie." It said Maderazo had admitted in his counter-affidavit that he "controls and oversees production of all news programs and special news coverages; makes final decisions on production of news programs or cancellation of existing programs; has final say on any other news matters; and controls schedules of all news programs."

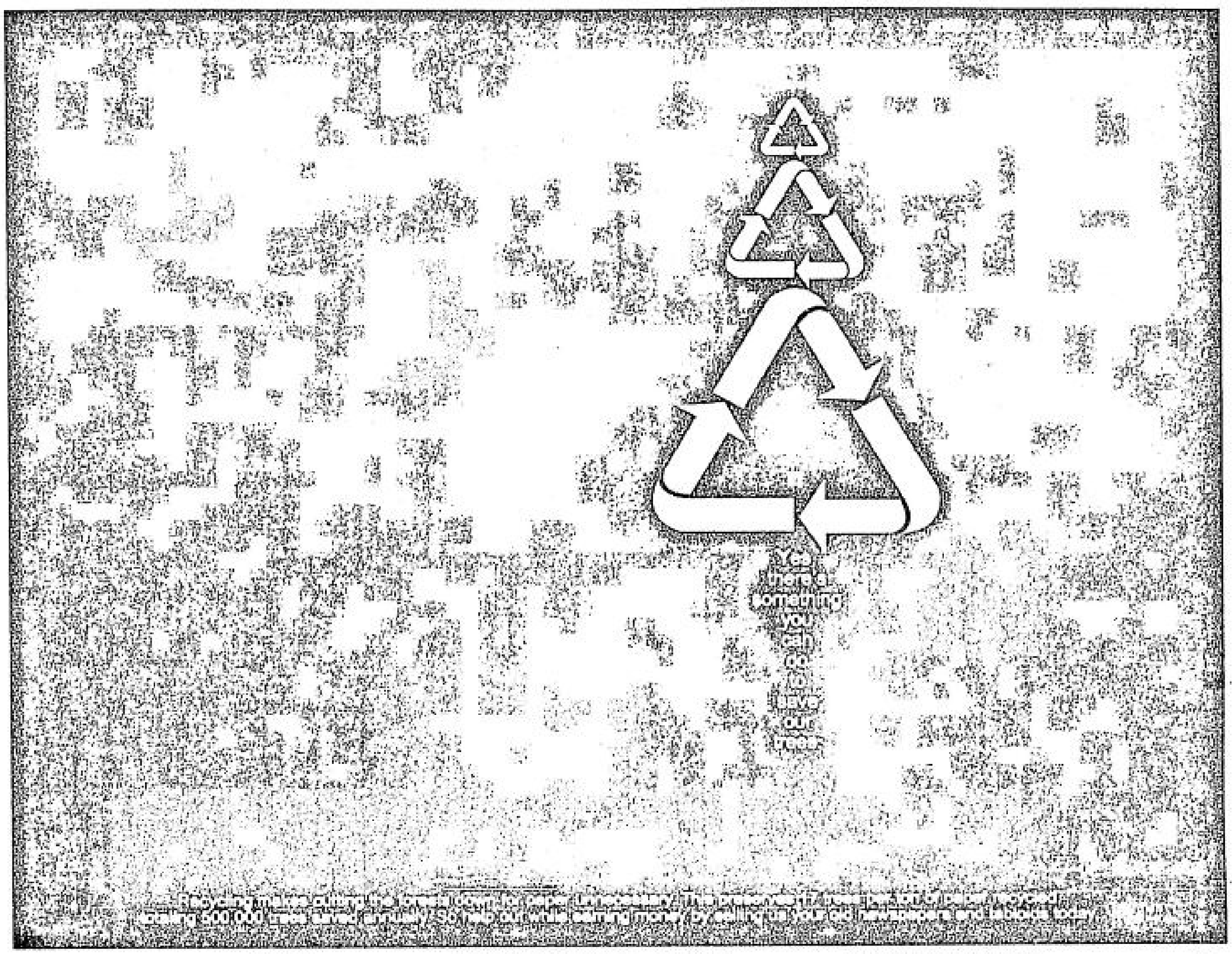
No translation

GMA also pointed out that Maderazo instructed Estonilo Reyes of ABS-CBN's News and Current Affairs to proceed with the airing of the story considering its "importance and newsworthiness." According to GMA, this only meant Maderazo was aware of the contents of the story and participated in its broadcast.

GMA noted that Maderazo offered the excuse that the term "*pagnanakaw ng* video" was only used to describe the incident and because there is no direct translation of the term "copyright infringement." GMA said the phrase portrayed GMA to the public as "thieves" or "snatchers."

Tulfo, in his counter-affidavit, said he merely reads the news and has no participation in the preparation of the script. This "is no defense at all," said GMA, since Tulfo "uttered, hurled and broadcasted the defamatory words."

The GMA statement pointed out that while Tulfo was mentioning "pagnanakaw ng video" on the ABS-CBN news programs, the TV screen also showed graphics that read, "Ang pagnanakaw ba'y serbisyong totoo?" (Is stealing true public service?) and the slug "Exclusive video ng ABS-CBN ninakaw ng GMA-7" (ABS-CBN exclusive video stolen by GMA-7).



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Jasmine Trias at Araneta Coliseum

TRIAS. By invitation only, with Erik Santos, Christian Bautista and Jay-R

JASMINE Trias, the Fil-Am favorite in the popular talent search "American Idol," is finally coming to Manila this October to perform in her very first home concert.

Produced by Starmedia, the concert, "Jasmine: Fil-Am Idol, Live in Manila," is on Oct. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum. It will give local fans the chance to meet and hear Jasmine sing OPM as well as songs she sang on "Idol."

"Jasmine: Fil-Am Idol, Live in Manila" is strictly by invitation, according to Starmedia.

Starmedia president Ana Co Puno is both proud and excited about her latest project, which is her very first "baby" in Manila. Back in Manila after the success in the US of the concerts "The Songbird and the Songwriter" with Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid and the "Greatest Hitmakers," Puno said she had long been planning Jasmine Trias' homecoming concert in her head. Considering Jasmine's impressive showing in the reality search, Puno is sure Filipinos would be glad to welcome her home.

To perform with Jasmine are homegrown champions Erik Santos, Christian Bautista and Jay-R.

The special performance at the Araneta Coliseum will be directed by Audie Gemora, with Gerard Salonga as musical director.

Invites will be given away to Jasmine Trias fans through special promotions. In the coming weeks, Starmedia will keep her fans posted on how to join the promos.

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3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
4 13 GOING ON 30 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 FENG SHUI 10.20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00
6 HEAVEN'S POND 10:45, 1.00, 3:15, 5:30, 7.45, 10.00
7 SAVED 11.00, 1:10, 3.20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
8 THE NOTEBOOK 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9 THE TERMINAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
10 SECRETARY 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

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2 SECRETARY 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 HEAVEN'S POND 10.30, 12.30, 2 30, 4.30, 6:30, 8:30, 10.00
5 13 GOING ON 30 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
6 FENG SHUI 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7 35, 9.50
7 SAVED 10:20, 12 15, 2:10, 4 05, 6.00, 7:55, 9.50

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1 HEAVEN'S POND 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 SAVED 10:05, 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00
3 13 GOING ON 30 10.50, 12 50, 2.50, 4 50, 6.50, 9:00
4 THE TERMINAL 10:10, 1.05, 4 00, 6:55, 9:10
5 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11.20, 1:40, 4:00, 6 20, 8.35, 10 30
6 TAKAW TINGIN 10.50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10.35, 1.00, 3:25, 5 50, 8:15, 10.30
8 FENG SHUI 11.20, 1.40, 4 00, 6.20, 8.40, 10 30

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2 SAVED
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2 FENG SHUI
3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

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2 FENG SHUI
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2	SAVED	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	SAVED	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12 50, 3 00, 5 10, 7 20, 9 10	GUARANTEED SEATS THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 1 50, 4 00, 6 10, 8 20, 10 30	THE NOTEBOOK
3	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	HEAVEN'S POND	GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST 12 50, 3 15, 5 40, 8 05, 10 30		GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2 15, 4 40, 7 95, 9 30	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
4	THE TERMINAL	FENG SHUI	13 GOING ON 30		GUARANTEED SEATS FENG SHUI 2 10, 4 30, 6 50 9 10, 11 30	FENG SHUI
5	FENG SHUI		THE NOTEBOOK		GUARANTEED SEATS THE TERMINAL 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 10	THE TERMINAL
6			THE BOURNE SUPREMACY			
7			THE TERMINAL			

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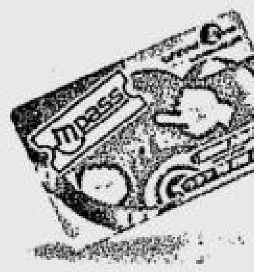

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NINA

Nina on tour

SOUL siren Nina will invade the school campuses in Metro Manila in a series of shows called "Nina Soul Scentsation Campus Tour," presented by Ellips Cologne (Your Scent, Your Soul), Magic 89.9 and Warner Music Philippines, starting today at 6 p.m. at AMA University.

The rest of the campus tour covers Arellano University on Sept. 27, St. Paul University Quezon City on Sept. 29, Philippine Women's University on Oct. 7 and Miriam College on Oct. 7.

Nina's hits include "Jealous," "Foolish Heart, "Loving You," "Make You Mine," "A Girl Can Dream," "Shoo Bee Doo," "Sayang Naman," and "I'll Always Stay in Love This Way," from her platinum debut album, "Heaven," and her gold second album, "Smile," from Warner Music Philippines.

DID YOU KNOW...

"Sentro" anchor **Ali Sotto** and her diplomat husband Omar Bsaies watched Steven Spielberg's "The Terminal" at the Power Plant in Rockwell Makati last Sunday. "Starstruck" avenger **Cristine Reyes** was not with her sister **Ara Mina** but with some girl friends when she viewed "13 Going on 30" in the same mall that same day.

Ai Ai ends...

From page A2-1

Ai Ai dreams of a grand wedding. "It will have exclusive TV coverage and the title would be 'Finally,'" she said with a laugh.

The man of her dreams "doesn't have to be very good-looking or very rich, as long as he's hard-working," she said. "He must be able to accept my kids, too.

"I can be a good wife," she said, "although I can also be a nagger and I get jealous easily. *Pero ngayon slight na lang.*"

Ai Ai was promoting her new music album, "Ang Tanging Ina N'yo."

"My priest friend has told that I might be destined for a single life," Ai Ai said, really serious now. "I think I'm ready for it. As they say, you can't have everything. Anyway, I have my children and my career."

Ayen brings new album to malls

SHOW TIME

AFTER her grand album launch at Ratsky Morato, Ayen Munji-Laurel now hits the malls to launch her second studio album, "Thankful," produced by ML Productions and exclusively distributed by BMG Records.

Ayen will be at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall today, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m.

Ayen also launched the album at The Podium at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City on Sept. 10 and at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa on Sept. 17.

Ayen will be at SM Southmall tomorrow at 4 p.m., SM Manila on Sept. 26 at 4 p.m., SM Cebu on Oct. 2, SM Iloilo on Oct. 3, SM Bacoor on Oct. 9, and SM Baguio on Oct. 16.

Ayen's album launch series is sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Globe Platinum, Ratsky, The Podium, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Plaza, China Star, Banana Leaf, Red Crab and SM Supermalls.

'Maximum Jive' at Megastrip

JED Madela

THE SM Megastrip at SM Megamall will be converted into a most spacious party place as Winston's "Maximum Jive" is staged there tonight, Sept. 24, featuring the bands Freestyle, Prime Council and Toy Symphony.

"Maximum Jive," presented by Lone Star Light and Jam Radio 88.3, is open to those 18 years old and above. Party organizers reserve the right to refuse entry to those without ID as proof of age.

Admission is free and lots of prizes and fun games are in store for everyone.

The series of Winston concerts has been playing to a full house of partygoers all over the country.

Freestyle is a consistent crowd drawer nationwide.

Prime Council is an assembly of musicians of the highest quality. Performing with them is Voice of Asia International Festival 2003 winner Jed Madela; who has released a solo album from Universal Records.

Sultry soprano Gail Blanco is vocalist of Prime Council.

Toy Symphony is composed of singers Elke Saison-Ortiz (of the famous Saison musical clan) and OJ Olaguer, guitarist Kashli Saison, bassist Tabs Tabunar, drummer Stanley Seludo and keyboardist Sid Sicam.

Derek McDonald in 'Best of Blue'

NEW artist Derek McDonald is performing as the front act for the "Best of Blue" concert at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow, Sept. 25.

Derek, who is from Scotland and blessed with good looks and stunning musicality, has made it to the top 10 charts in Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines.

He was a presenter in the recent MTV Asia Music Awards and also did the front act for the Blue concert in Japan.

Derek, 22, has released his debut album, "Inescapable," which contains 14 tracks, most of which he composed. The carrier single, "Hurts So Bad," was a hit in Manila. "Inescapable" is distributed by Alpha Music.

"Best of Blue" is presented by Smart Buddy, Sony Ericsson, Manila Hotel, Addict Mobile, Skechers, PLDT My Music, and Greenwich. Call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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3	Dolby	FENG SHUI	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
4	SDDS	BOURNE SUPREMACY	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5	dts	EXORCIST	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	HEAVEN'S POND	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES'	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TAKAW TINGIN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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C	

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CINEMA-2	TAKAW TINGIN
CINEMA-3	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BETTER THAN SEX (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-7	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-8	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVED
CINEMA-12	HEAVEN'S POND
CINEMA-14	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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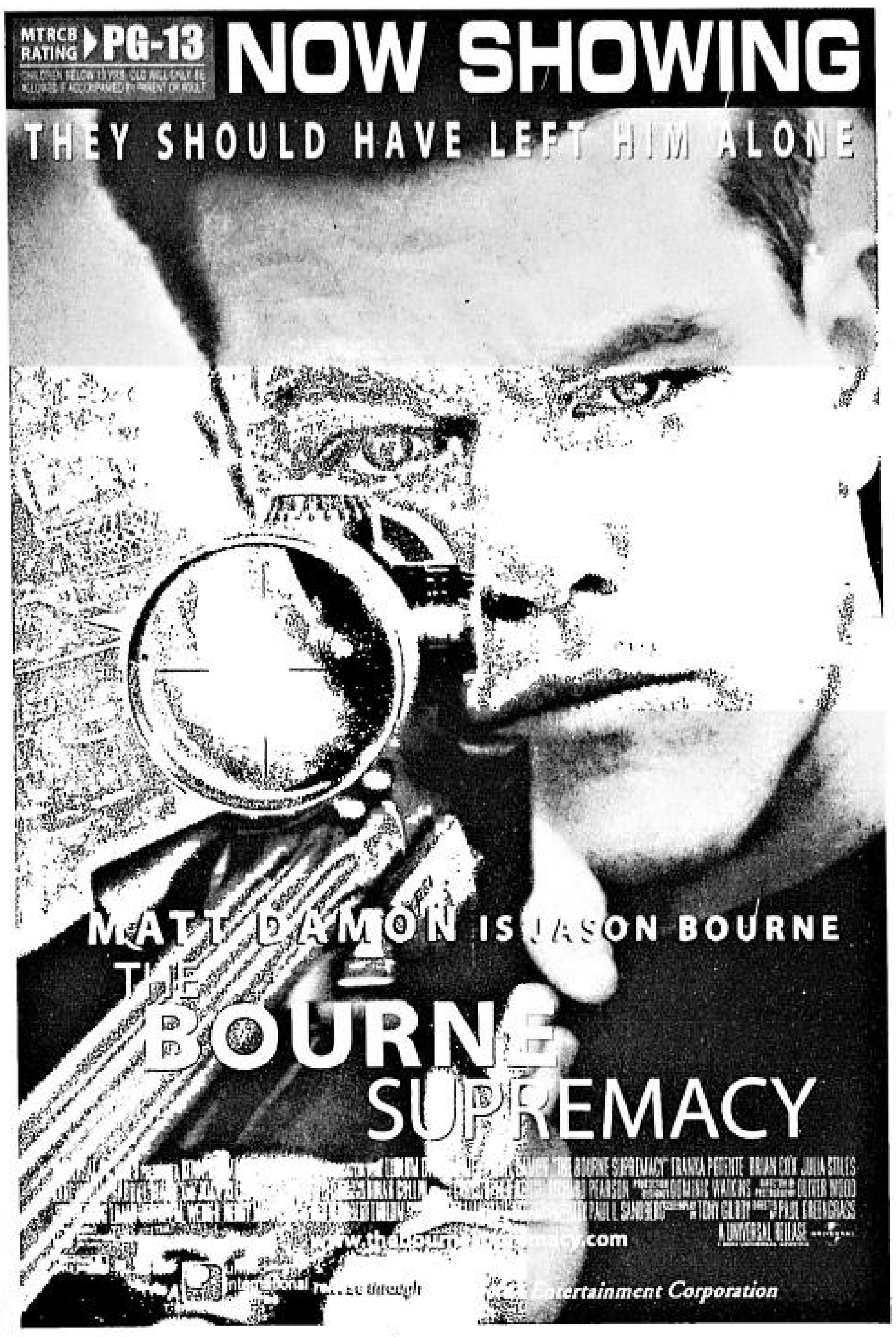
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	TERMINAL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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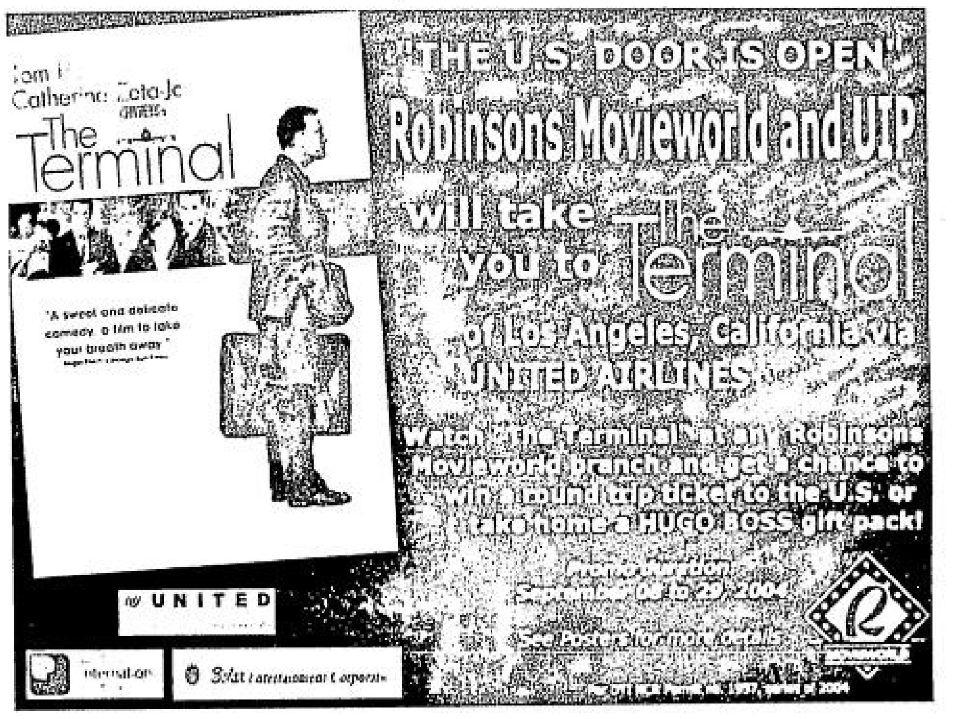
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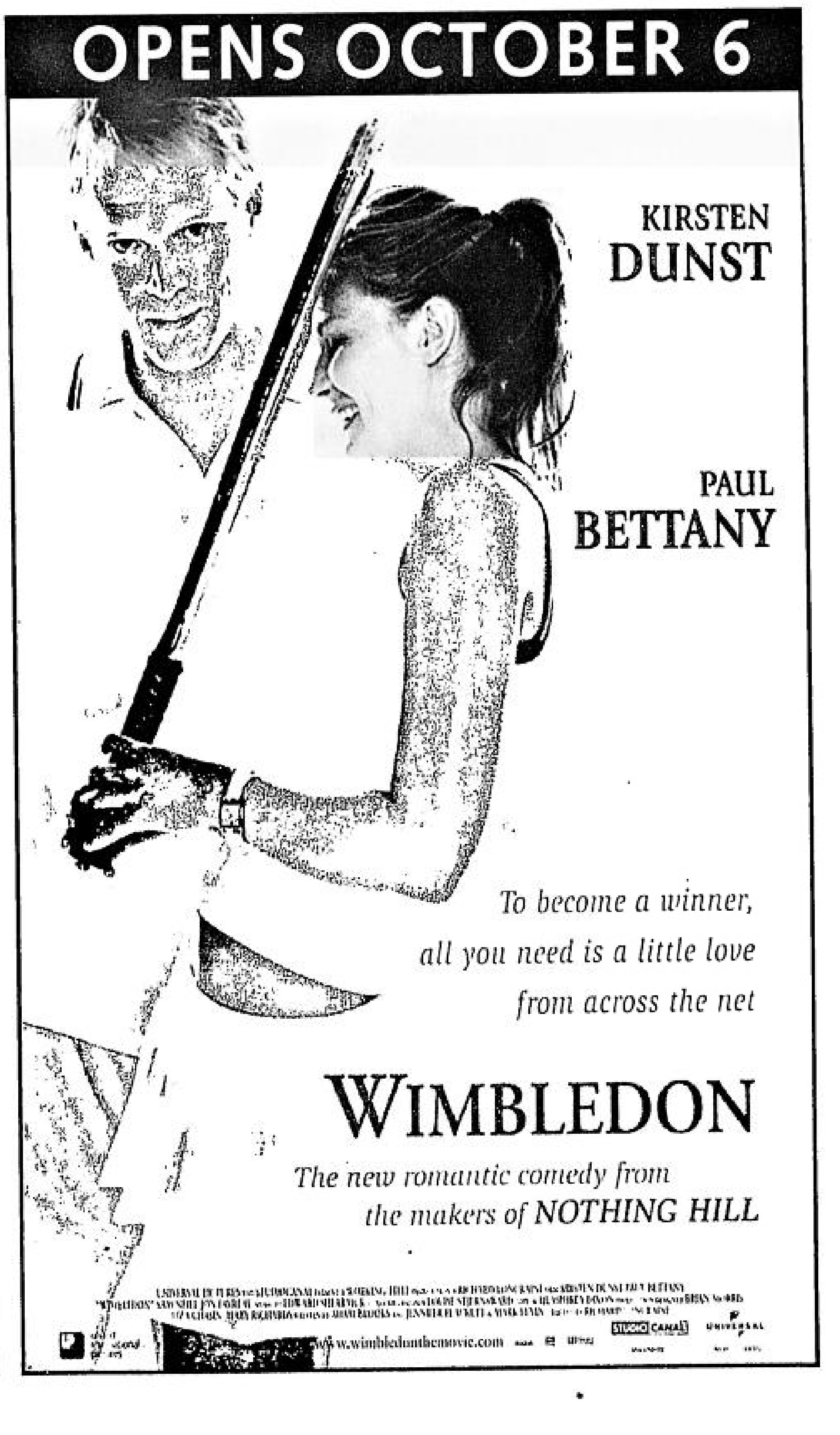
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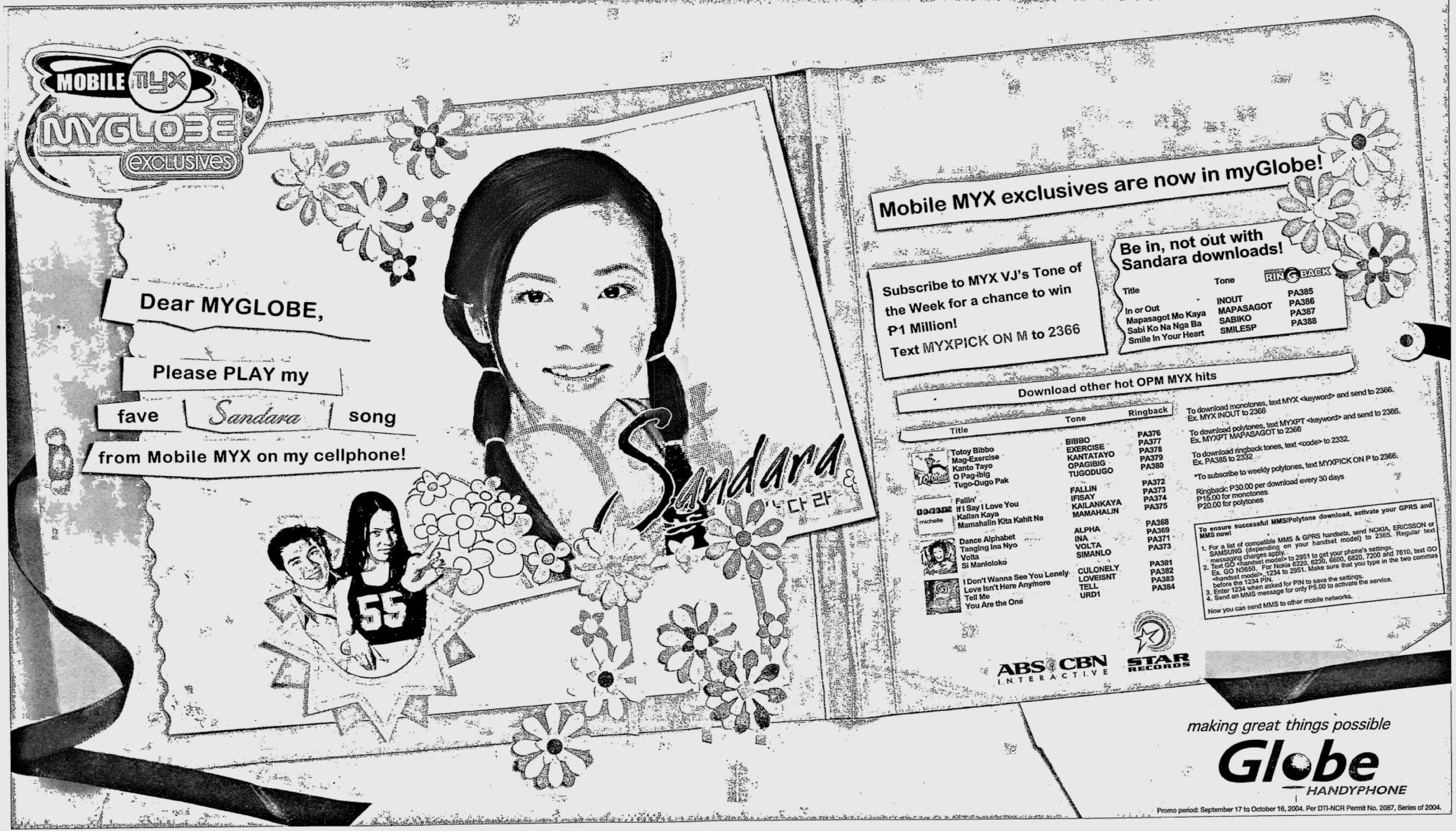

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Dance Alphabet	ALPHA	PA368
Tanging Ina Nyo	INA	PA369
Volta	VOLTA	PA371
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BSP keeps key policy rates unchanged

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday kept its overnight rates unchanged, despite the recent 25-basis point hike in the US Federal Reserves' policy rate.

The BSP has not touched its benchmark rates since a cut of 25 basis points in July 2003. The bank's overnight borrowing rate is 6.75 percent while its lending rate is 9 percent.

It, however, warned that monetary policy tightening might be needed soon to ease inflationary pressure.

"We will undertake a well-timed adjustment in monetary policies to arrest the buildup in inflation expectations and prevent inflation persistence," the BSP said in a statement.

The regulators' bias in favor of keeping the cost of funds lower, despite the rising inflation rate and global interest rates, was aimed at supporting economic growth.

"Inflation is expected to continue to rise in the coming months but the increases should begin to taper off by mid-2005, assuming no further adverse supply side shocks occur," BSP Officer-in-Charge Armando Suratos said yesterday.

"The average inflation is likely to exceed the 4-5 percent target for 2004 and 2005 as the full impact of supply side pressures is reflected in price developments, but it should revert to the 4-5 percent target in 2006," he said.

The peso yesterday dropped to an intra-day low of 56.395 to $1 but closed at 56.36, as the widening of the differential between the Philippine and US rates favored the greenback.

Suratos said the impact of the recent tightening by the US Fed was not expected to affect the domestic inflation path, whether through the exchange rate or other channels.

"The MB considers the emerging differential between the country's 91-day Treasury bill rate and the US 90-day T-bill rate to be comfortable," he said.

With the US economy gaining ground and payrolls improving, the Federal Open Market Committee jacked up the target for the federal funds rate to 1.75 percent from 1.5 percent on Tuesday. It was the third tranche of monetary tightening by the US Fed this year, after the rates were chopped to a 45-year low of 1 percent from a high of 6 percent in 2001.

Asian Development Bank chief economist Ifzal Ali said he expected interest rates in developing Asia to creep up within the next 15 months.

"Historically, interest rates in Asia are heavily influenced by the short-term interest rates in the US," he said.

"The tightening in the US will channel some of the capital funds which flowed to Asia back to the developed countries," he said.

The ADB, in its economic outlook released yesterday, projected that the Fed would continue to raise its policy rate at a "measured" pace over the 2004-2005 period. By end-2005, it expects the rate to hit 3.5-4 percent.

Current account posts surplus of $1.93B

THE COUNTRY'S current account posted a surplus of $1.93 billion in the first semester of the year, up by 146 percent from a year ago, fueled by improved export performance.

In a press briefing yesterday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that for the whole year, the current account was expected to remain at a surplus of $1.48 billion.

"Exports are targeted to expand by 10 percent in line with the projected demand growth in partner countries," Guinigundo said.

"Imports of goods are anticipated to rise by 13 percent due largely to higher crude oil price in the world market and the demand-for imported raw materials and capital goods to support the requirements of the export sector and the manufacturing sector," he explained.

The current account—which covers trade of goods and services, and transfer payments—is a key component of the balance of payments, which measures the foreign exchange transactions between the country and the rest of the world.

The first semester current account surplus helped the country post a $68 million BOP surplus in the same period, a turnaround from the $609 million deficit a year ago.

For the second quarter alone, the current account, as well as the capital and financial accounts, performed strongly "following the

CURRENT/ B6

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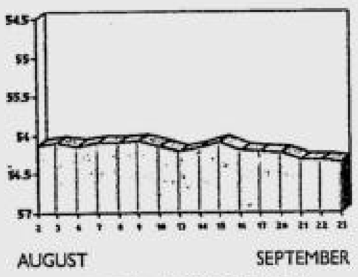

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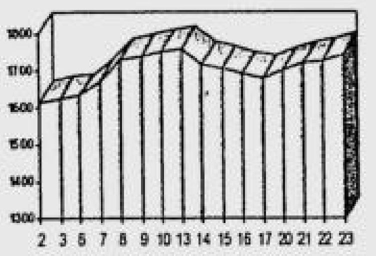
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up

STOCKS climbed yesterday, led by phone firm PLDT and food and beer maker San Miguel Corp., after the central bank said it was not matching a US interest rate increase.

Investors were also bolstered by the Asian Development Bank, which raised its growth forecast for the Philippines to 5.5 percent for this year and 2005, from an earlier forecast of 5 percent.

The Philippine main index ended 14.68 points or 0.85 percent higher at 1,742.56 points. The index has gained 21 percent so far this year.

"The local monetary officials' move to keep benchmark rates unchanged should support interest to re-weight on the Philippines over the long term," stock brokerage firm 2TradeAsia.com said in a client report.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4376, Series of 2004

Finance submits draft bill removing VAT exemptions

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is moving to lift the value-added tax exemption of several products and services in a bid to shore up revenue collection of the cash-strapped government, and solve the perceived inefficiency of the country's VAT system.

The DOF has submitted to Congress a draft bill that seeks to trim down the list of VAT-exempt products and services. It is currently looking for a sponsor of the bill.

Should Congress approve the proposed bill, services rendered by lawyers and doctors will no longer be exempted from VAT. Some members of Congress and the Cabinet have questioned the VAT exemption enjoyed by doctors and lawyers, who are perceived to be earning higher incomes than other professionals.

"The economic team wants to remove the VAT exemption of lawyers and doctors because we need to level the playing field among professionals," Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said in an interview with reporters.

The proposal also sought the removal of the VAT exemption enjoyed by the following: sale or importation of coal, natural gas, and petroleum products; sale or importation of raw materials for petroleum products; importation of passenger and/or cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons; sale and importation by cooperatives, and sale and importation of printing and publication books.

"It is unfortunate that the full benefits from VAT cannot be realized in view of the many exemptions that have been granted to various sectors of the economy," the DOF said in the draft bill's explanatory note.

Tan explained that the "too many" VAT exemptions had distorted the VAT system, which was supposed to have a broad taxpayers base. The tax trail under the VAT system, which requires taxpayers to declare their input and output credits, is destroyed by the exemptions, she added.

By limiting the VAT exemption, the government hopes to plug the leakages that was partly brought about by the distortion of the VAT trail.

According to the DOF, the government lost about P144 billion from VAT leakages in 2003 alone. Of the P279 billion expected collectibles from VAT last year, the government's actual VAT collection only reached P135 billion. This translated to a 52-percent VAT gap, or the difference between the expected and actual collections.

McDonald's starts energy campaign

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NEXT time you eat at your favorite McDonald's branch, don't just ignore those paper placemats on your tray. They may just help you save some of your hard-earned cash.

Using its ubiquitous colorful tray mats, the fast-food giant will impart to avid diners some energy-saving tips that will help the country bring down its electricity consumption and enable consumers to generate savings from lower monthly bills.

This public service effort, which will run from November to December, is part of the Department of Energy's Placemates project under its EC (Energy Conservation) Way of Life program.

The colorful tray mats will contain simple energy-saving tips, dubbed Energy-Saving Tips for Your Bahay, that can save households anywhere from P24 to P336 a month in electricity payments.

Some of the energy-saving tips involve the proper use of appliances such as television sets, radios, hot irons, refrigerators, electric fans, electric stoves and air-conditioning units.

"This shows our commitment to saving energy. In our stores, we're already making various efforts to save energy. Now we want to disseminate information to our customers on how they can save energy as well," said George Yang, president of local McDonald's franchise holder Golden Arches Development Corp.

He said millions of customers flocked to the 240 McDonald's branches all over the country everyday. By placing energy conservation tips on the fast-food chain's tray mats, these millions of people would become aware of how they could help the government reduce electricity usage while generating savings for themselves.

An average of 2,000 people visited each McDonald's branch daily, he said. For the Placemates program's two-month run at McDonald's, around 28.8 million customers should have at least seen the tray mats.

One example of how a household can save on electricity, as printed on the tray mats, is by replacing 50-watt incandescent bulbs with 18-watt compact fluorescent lamps. This can generate savings of around P24 a month or P1,700 in four years.

Another energy-conservation tip to be printed on the tray mats has to do with ironing. The tip says ironing should be done only once a week, either between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. or between 10 p.m. and 12 a.m. Thicker materials should be ironed first so that the remaining heat when the iron is turned off will suffice in smoothing out wrinkles in lighter fabrics. Savings should also run up to P24 a month.

BCDA president, directors take pay cuts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority yesterday announced that the salaries and benefits received by its CEO and directors were slashed by as much as 72 percent in line with the administration's efforts to cut expenses.

According to the BCDA, the annual pay of its president and chief executive Rufo Colayco was reduced by 58 percent to a total of P1.79 million a year from P4.27 million. The amount, the agency stressed, included the basic salary and all other benefits.

Also, the BCDA cut the compensation of its directors by 72 percent to P20,000 a month from about P71,400.

BCDA directors include Alvin P. Capino, Rafael Julian S. Azanza, Jesulito A. Manalo, Ari-den C. Sebastian, Gerardo R. Seno, Isaac S. Puno III and Florencio F. Padernal.

A resolution on the matter was passed last Sept. 22 to comply with President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for austerity in the wake of the current fiscal crisis.

The BCDA said the resolution would take effect on Oct. 1.

The agency was created in 1992 under Republic Act No. 7227. It is tasked to pursue the conversion of former and existing military bases into commercial/industrial hubs, as well as the promotion of the social and economic development of Central Luzon in particular, and the country in general.

Earlier this week, two top officials of state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. resigned in the wake of the controversy on the high salaries of executives in government-owned and -controlled corporations. They were Rufino Bomasang and Jose Gangan, presidents of PNOC Exploration Corp. and PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. respectively.

In a related development, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority said its pay rationalization plan assured that the annual salaries and benefits of its officials were within the limits set by Malacañang.

SBMA senior deputy administrator Chito Cruz said Memorandum Order No. 20, dated June 25, 2001, specified that the actual pay package of officials should not exceed two times the standard rates for comparable national government posts.

Cruz said SBMA Chair Felicito C. Payumo was receiving only P51,700 a month as he was giving P33,342 of his pay to a scholarship support fund.

Even then, Cruz said the SBMA had slashed the monthly per diem of its directors from P60,000 to P20,000 since the frequency of meetings were reduced from thrice a month to only twice.

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Duracom ownership clarified

MERCHANT power provider Duracom Mobile Power Corp. yesterday said the Lopez family had no stake in the company contrary to reports that it was owned by Manila Electric Co.

DMPC, in a statement, said it was majority owned and controlled by East Asia Diesel Power Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of listed firm East Asia Power Resources Corp.

Duracom is a power generating company that owns and operates two bunker diesel-fired barge mounted power plants presently moored at the Navotas Fishport Complex. It supplies electricity to Meralco.

Duracom executive vice president and chief operating officer Walden H. Tantuico said that as a merchant power provider, it did not have the so-called "take or pay" provision in its contract with Meralco. Duracom does not charge a minimum off-take and Meralco pays only for the power that it actually uses from Duracom generating plants, he said.

Duracom is the prototype of the merchant power utility envisioned by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), Tantuico explained. In the competitive open-access environment envisioned by the law, power utilities may choose from several merchant power plants for their power supply requirement, which translates to more affordable rates for consumers, he said.

Ex-Neda chief cautions gov't on railway projects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A FORMER top economic official has cautioned the government against rushing the financial and technology packages for the massive $5-billion railway projects in Metro Manila and Luzon.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla said that before the government embarks on a borrowing spree to raise funds for these railway projects, it must be doubly sure it was getting the best financing deal and technical specification for these long-term projects.

"We have to be extra careful about rushing headlong into these projects because these would be paid and used by us for a long time, way beyond the lifetime of those approving them," said Medalla, now a professor at the University of the Philippines.

Medalla said the government could only be assured that it was getting the best deal in terms of funding and technology, if all contracts would be bid out.

This is even if these would be bankrolled by tied loans where the lenders expect firms in their country to take part in the project.

Medalla said the government could only determine whether the financing package had the lowest interest rates or longest repayment term if at least two lenders make a separate offer.

MEDALLA

Also, Medalla said that a bidding for the railroad contract would also determine whether the government has chosen the right technology appropriate to the country's needs and whether the contractor was giving the best price for the type of technology used.

He cited the case of the $503-million North Rail project, which has been criticized for the government's lack of transparency in awarding the project to the China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (CNMEC) and its cost of P1 billion per kilometer.

The National Economic and Development Authority said that it did not bid out North Rail because it would be funded by a $400-million tied loan from the China Export Import Bank.

Medalla said the main concern about North Rail was the type of railway technology it would use for Phase 1 from Caloocan to Malolos, because it would show whether the government was paying too much or just right for the project.

"China is not considered a leader in railways technology so it is not the best source of rail, But why are we buying from them?" Medalla asked.

Medalla added that choosing the appropriate railway technology for North Rail was important because it would be the first major railroad to be built outside Metro Manila.

It would also set the standards for interconnection of other railroad projects in the country.

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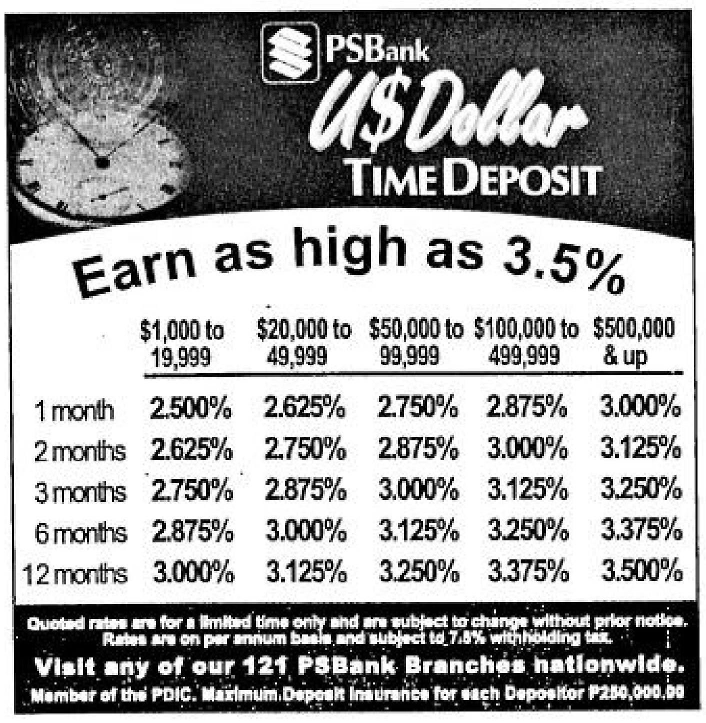

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MVP buys more shares of PLDT

By Clarissa S. Batino

MANUEL V. Pangilinan, chair of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., continues to gobble up his company's shares, shelling out P13.9 million for his latest purchase.

Pangilinan said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that he bought 10,455 shares of PLDT last Tuesday at P1,330 each.

The purchase boosted Pangilinan's PLDT holdings to 85,874 from 74,419 shares in May.

When Pangilinan bought 5,000 PLDT shares in May, the price was at P985 each.

It was estimated that PLDT's share price would go up to P1,700 by 2007.

Pangilinan has been accumulating shares, while several PLDT officials sold theirs when prices spiked following a report that PLDT posted a net income of P12 billion in the first half.

This exceeds the P11.2 billion registered for the entire 2003.

Analysts said that the PLDT chair's continued buying support could further boost the share price of PLDT.

Initially, analysts expected the share price of PLDT to hit only between P1,200 and P1,300 this year, but the target had already been breached.

"There is no stronger buy recommendation than a well-known executive like Pangilinan who had been gobbling up shares of PLDT," said an analyst.

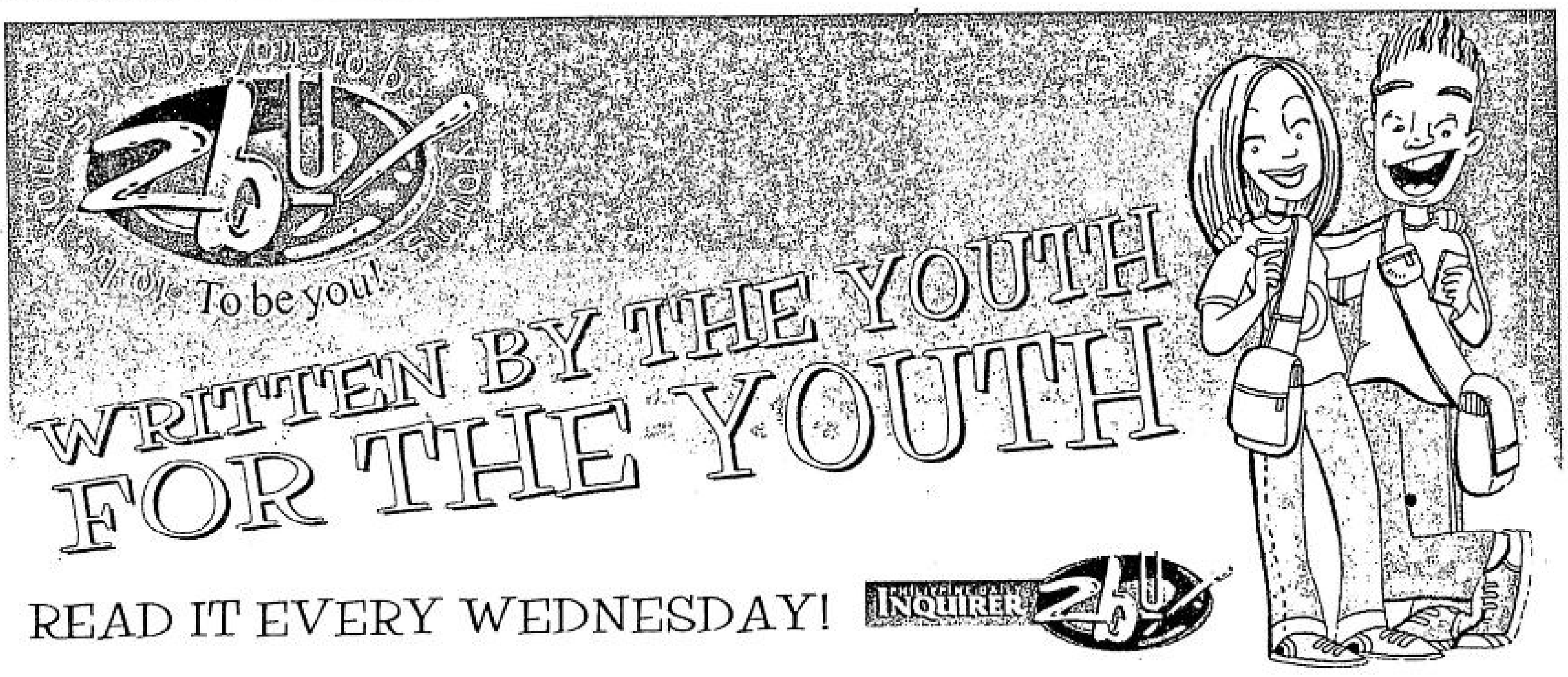
Pangilinan had been acquiring PLDT shares since last year. In January this year, he told the PSE that he acquired two blocks of 1,000 shares for P896.25 and P931.50 each.

The telecom executive also bought 2,000 shares of PLDT for P1,400 in October last year.

He said early this year that the company's share price remained undervalued.

PLDT's board had set in August a four-year profit target of P110 billion starting 2004, which should raise the company's share price to P1,700 by the end of 2007.

This year, the company had revised its income target to P22 billion, from about P18 billion following the strong first semester results.



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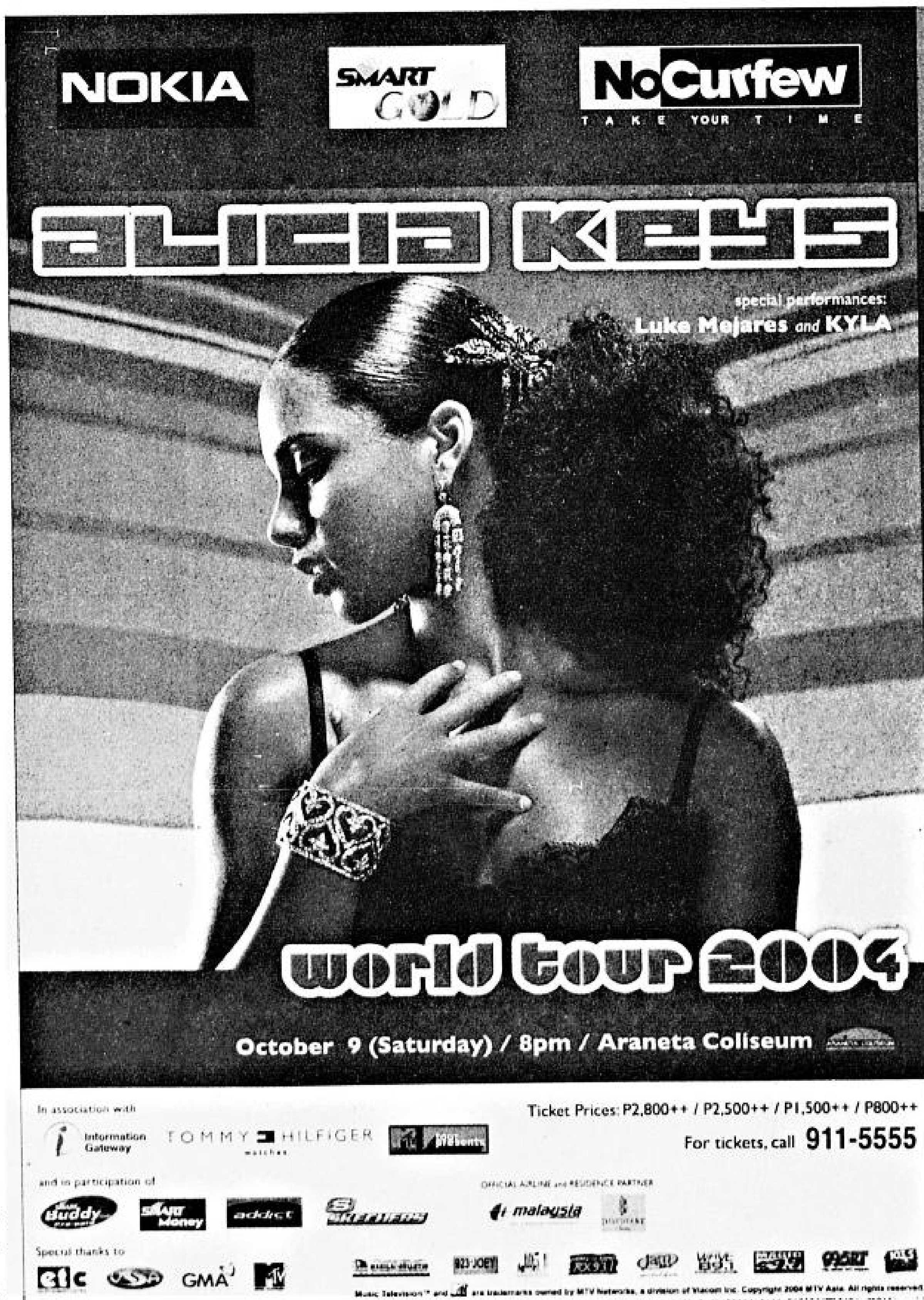

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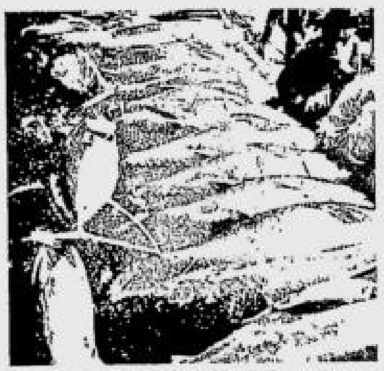
DA to oppose non-tariff barriers on tuna exports

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture will block attempts by the European Union and Japan to impose non-tariff barriers that would adversely affect the tuna export industry.

"There are talks of stringent and unreasonable lead standards that will be imposed by these countries. We will do our best in the agency to block these efforts," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap told key stakeholders in the Philippine tuna industry yesterday.

The DA, for instance, would file a protest over Japan's ban on filtered-smoke sashimi and California's mercury-content labeling requirements for fresh/frozen tuna products.



"UNREASONABLE" requirements threaten RP tuna exports

"We are coordinating with the Department of Trade and Industry regarding these unnecessary requirements," he said.

The Philippines is the world's second biggest exporter of tuna products, next to Taiwan.

The country produces about 300,000 metric tons of tuna valued at more than P18 billion.

Tuna exports bring in P11 billion in annual revenue.

Yap said the government would look at alternative markets to further develop the local tuna industry, while these non-tariff issues were being resolved.

"We are developing new markets, like China, for Philippine tuna," Yap added.

Yap also said he would work for better trade terms for the country's tuna exports.

The US imposes a tariff of between 6 percent and 35 percent on Philippine tuna, while the European Union charges a duty of between 12 percent and 24 percent.

DOF calls for lifting of tax breaks of imported tobacco

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has called for the lifting of tax exemptions enjoyed by companies bringing in cigarettes through economic zones and freeports.

The DOF said the government has lost billions in foregone revenue, considering the increasing volume of imported tobacco products coming in through these special zones.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said the DOF would push for the legislation of the proposal, which would form part of government's efforts to plug tax leakages and help solve the country's pressing fiscal problems.

Tan said Albay Representative Joey Salceda and Makati Representative Teodoro Locsin, who first raised the concern on the huge revenue losses from tobacco entering the country's freeports, planned to sponsor the required bill.

Salceda earlier estimated that the government was losing P2.7 billion every year in excise, value-added and income taxes on cigarettes, because of the large volumes that enter the country through the Subic Bay Freeport and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Central Luzon.

Tarlac Representative Jesli Lapus, who chairs the House committee on ways and means, had an even bigger estimate of foregone revenue.

He said the government loses about P7.4 billion a year, not only due to tax exemption, but also because of smuggling of cigarettes.

The legislators raised the alarm over the tax leakages from cigarettes during the Congress hearing on the proposed rationalization of taxes on alcohol and cigarettes last Wednesday.

Malacañang transfers IPO to DTI

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG has transferred the Intellectual Property Office from the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Department of Trade and Industry, to further its 10-point economic program.

Executive Order No. 346, signed last Aug. 9, said the transfer was necessary to make it easier for the DTI and the IPO to coordinate policies and programs.

The IPO was established to oversee and implement state policies on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Last May, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government would mount a more vigorous enforcement of IPRs in a bid to be removed from the United States' list of top copyright violators.

Purisima's statement came after the US retained the country on its priority watch list (PWL) of IPR violators under the so-called Special 301 Report.

This groups violators into four classes: priority foreign countries, PWL, watch list and Section 306.

Countries listed in the PWL are considered unable to provide an adequate level of IPR protection for American right holders or products.

Those listed are subject to fast-tracked investigations and possible sanctions.

There are 15 PWL countries in this year's report, including Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan and Taiwan.

Also, Executive Order No. 345, also signed Aug. 9, transfers the Philippine International Trading Corp. from the DTI to the Office of the President.

The PTIC was created under Presidential Decree No. 252, as amended, and was designated as a key agency in the implementation of the President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point economic development program.

LBP to raise ₱62.1B to pay landowners

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines would need some P62.1 billion to pay landowners for their land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

LBP president and CEO Gary B. Teves said in a press briefing that the bank would advance the payments as the government could no longer subsidize land acquisitions under CARP.

"There is also the simple fact that the government lacks the money to pursue the agrarian reform program," Teves said.

He said the only good news was the recovery of P38 billion in Marcos ill-gotten wealth, the bulk of which would be used to bankroll the CARP, which was expected to be completed by 2008.

Teves said the government has been missing its targets set under the program, primarily due to conflicts with landowners over the price of their property.

Landowners, he said, should not quote the market value for the property since the land would be given to farmers.

In another development, LBP reported that its outstanding loans to priority sectors reached P74.8 billion as of end-July, accounting for 60 percent of the bank's P125-billion loan portfolio.

These priority sectors include small farmers and fisher folk, small and medium enterprises and agribusiness firms.

Julio Climaco, LBP vice president for strategic planning, said these loans were channeled through more than 900 cooperatives, community financial institutions and Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp.

These benefited more than 250,000 small farmers and fisher folk. *Christine A. Gaylican*

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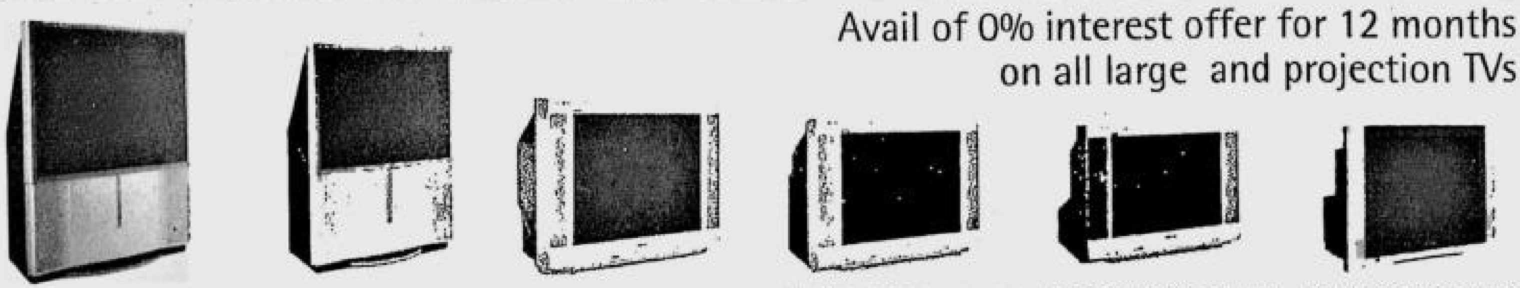

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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE SECOND and third-liners at PLDT may be taking profit with their stock options, but telecom chair Manuel V. Pangilinan is bucking the in-house trend and apparently still even placing his spare cash buying the company stock.

On Tuesday, the 32nd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, MVP acquired 10,455 shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. at P1,330 each, putting his total PLDT shareholdings to 85,874.

MVP just shrugged off any special or political reason for the Sept. 21 purchase. "The numbers do not even add up to seven, Marcos' favorite," he said.

At yesterday's close of P1,355, his PLDT holdings is already worth over P116 million.

MVP may still be working like a horse, and yet his considerable estate, according to the grapevine, has already been left in the care of ex-PLDT spokesperson and Ateneo classmate Antonio Samson.

Now, as to the MVP plan to form and spearhead a South Luzon Expressway consortium through the Skyway operator, Citra, the grapevine buzz says the MVP boys are still bouncing numbers with the new group that has taken over the Alabang-to-Santo Tomas segment.

The little known Northeast Development and Acquisitions Corp., which is not even listed in the telephone directory, apparently has undergone a management change itself, with a Danny Aurelio now reported sitting as chair and former Finance Undersecretary Joel Banares as president.

The MVP plan, supported by Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, is to unify the three SLEX operators as well as extend the expressway from Batangas all the way to Balintawak to connect the carriageway with the now nearly completed, world-class North Luzon Expressway.

Stuck in Saipan

THE DELGADOS of Islacom fame are finding doing business in the US territory of Saipan almost as difficult as it is at home.

After meeting federal and commonwealth hurdles over their two-year-old acquisition of the Verizon telephone franchise in Saipan, the Delgados face another, new obstacle placed by Gov. Juan Babauta.

Babauta, under the anti-monopoly banner, is now proposing that the telephone cable linking the island with the outside world be sliced off from the Verizon franchise, and sold to third parties.

In other words, the Delgados will end up operating the domestic and cellular service in the speck of an island, but they will not control the more lucrative international gateway facility.

Babauta's term will end next year, and the Delgados, backed by the island's chamber of commerce and the local legislature, hope the next administration would be friendlier.

19th venture says Hi!

GOKONGWEI daughter Lisa is launching this weekend the 19th glossy in her publishing empire, Hi!, a fortnightly inspired by the money-spinning Hello! celebrity magazine.

With a cover price of P40, the 40-pager mag will feature Kris Aquino and her men, and Amalia Fuentes on the alleged break-up of Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales in the first issue.

The Kris spread alone should already cover half of the rag.

Heard through the grapevine

GLORIAMARIS, which now has 18 branches, will begin selling franchises shortly, at P1 million for a dim sum + siopao branch or P2 million for a full-dining setup.

Target franchisee is 30, to be farmed out in Metro Manila and key provincial cities.

Tip: The restaurant chain eventually hopes to backdoor list itself in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

(*Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com*)

Napocor rate increase inevitable, says DOE

By Abigail L. Ho

IF THE national government does not absorb any of the National Power Corp.'s debts, generation rates will have to go up by as much as P2.29 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) next year for the state firm to wipe out its net loss and return to the black.

In a forum at the University of the Philippines on Wednesday, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said a tariff increase was needed to help Napocor get back to the net income position it had not enjoyed since the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

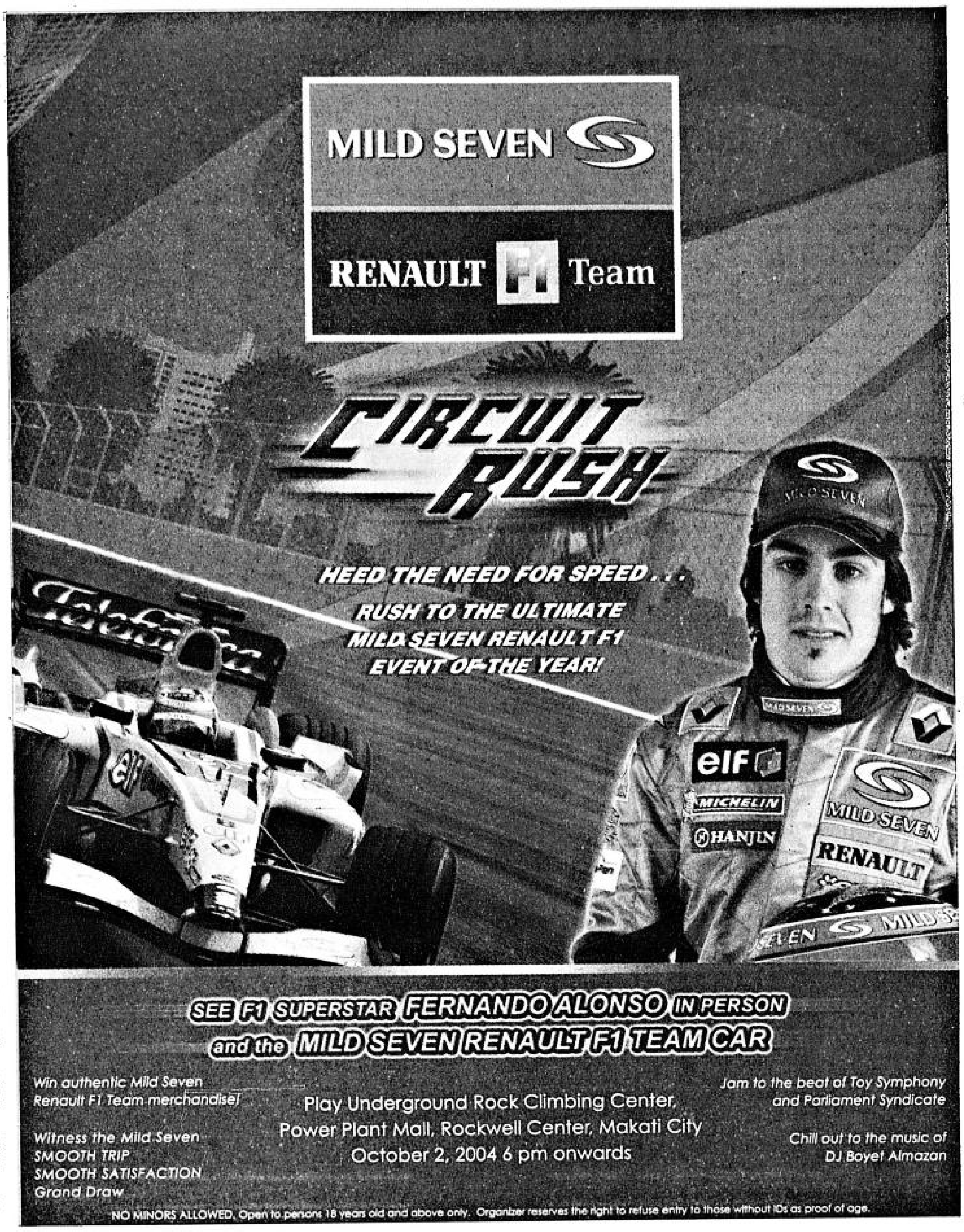
By 2006, the state firm will need another tariff hike of about 31.73 centavos per kWh on top of the projected 2005 increase if it continues to carry all of its debt stock, which is seen to hit P598.58 billion in 2004, excluding contingent liabilities.

Assuming a P200-billion government absorption of Napocor's debts, as stated in Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), the state firm's rates should go up by P2.06 per kWh next year and by an additional 33.73 centavos per kWh in 2006.

But if the government would absorb P500 billion of Napocor's debts, as earlier committed by the Department of Finance, a lower tariff hike of P1.71 per kWh in 2005 and another 36.73 centavos per kWh in 2006 would suffice.

This means that the longer Napocor's debts are not absorbed by the national government, the higher its generation rates will have to be increased to restore its viability.

Perez said in an earlier interview that discussions were ongoing with the DOF and the Department of Budget and Management regarding the absorption of P200 billion of Napocor's debts, most likely to take place within the year.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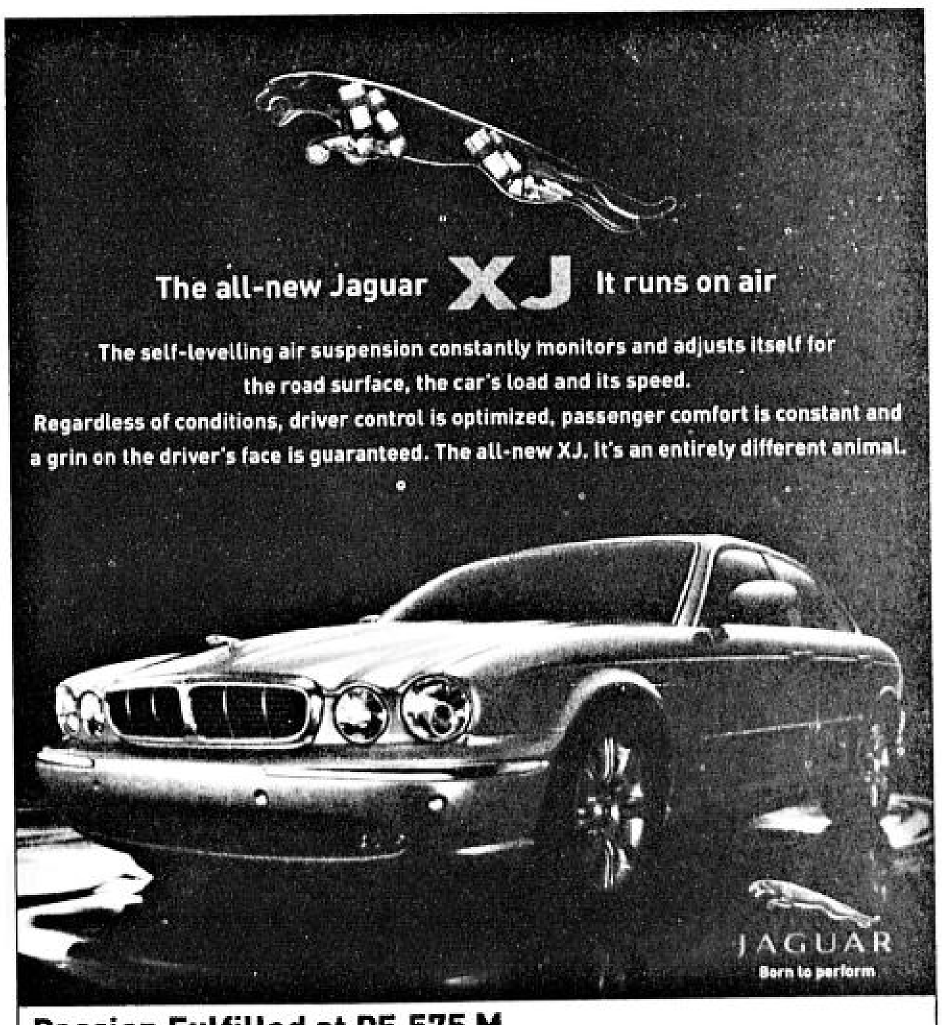
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CAP concludes deal with land firm

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) has completed an agreement that would allow a local property investor to infuse P6 billion worth of real estate assets into the education plan provider's trust fund.

The infusion is expected to partly increase the company's trust fund assets which would address future liabilities of the pre-need firm.

Robert John Sobrepeña, CAP director and head of the company's business development group, yesterday told reporters that CAP would submit the terms of the agreement to the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval.

Sobrepeña however did not identify the investor.

The firm Greensquare Property Corp. earlier was rumored to be the investor.

But sources denied this, saying that Romeo Roxas, Greensquare Property president and Philippine Veterans Bank director, only took part in looking for an investor in CAP.

Roxas is said to be a close family friend of the Sobrepeñas.

Private appraisers Cuervo Appraisers Inc. and Philippine Real Estate Ratings, were accredited by the SEC and had evaluated the land to be infused in CAP at P200 per square meter.

To maximize the value of the new asset, CAP will propose selling it to schools. The value of the land can grow over the next five years, CAP officials said.

For schools without immediate cash, CAP can propose certain arrangements such as offsetting the acquisition cost against the liabilities of CAP to those schools, officials added.

Sobrepeña also said CAP will sign another agreement with a US-based investor today to secure a $127-million loan for CAP. The signing will take place in Hong Kong.

Sobrepeña said CAP had also complied with all SEC requirements to offer P1 billion worth of new education plans.

CAP had recently paid penalties to the SEC for exceeding the P5-billion limit of securities it was earlier allowed to sell. The company exceeded the limit by P64 million in August.

The SEC ordered CAP to stop selling securities until it had fully complied with requirements for its application to sell P1 billion worth of additional pre-need plans.

Cement safeguards more vital than ever, say producers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP of cement makers yesterday said the recent uptrend in the cost of inputs made it more necessary for the government to impose safeguard duties against imports.

Felix Enrico R. Alfiler, president of the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, said in a statement that the upsurge in costs of coal, diesel fuel and electricity, among others, have made it more difficult for members to make the needed adjustments to be more competitive with low-priced imports.

The Department of Trade and Industry, acting on petitions from local cement manufacturers, imposed a safeguard duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag of imported cement starting in June 2003. The duty was reduced to P15.60 last March on account of rising prices in the local market.

In a ruling issued last July, the Supreme Court overturned an earlier decision of the Court of Appeals which upheld the safeguard duty. A Japanese firm had questioned the legality of the safeguard measure with the lower court.

The DTI has filed a motion for the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision.

"While rising costs has not derailed (industry efforts to be more efficient), the results may take longer to realize," Alfiler said.

The implementation of safeguard measures, while protecting the local industry, would require local firms to improve operations and prepare to compete with imports once the safeguards lapse.

Among the measures that local cement firms have adopted are debt restructuring; extensive research on the use of alternative fuels to reduce dependence on costly electricity and imported coal; increased management and operational efficiencies, improve management techniques and more intensive product research and development.

Also, Alfiler said the safeguard tariffs should be retained because there was still an excess of supply in Asia, which poses a threat of dumping to a low-tariff country such as the Philippines.

2 ways to address fiscal crisis

By Ernesto Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IN ADDRESSING the fiscal crisis, we must choose strategic areas where we will have the most impact.

The decision of the Silliman University Alumni to contribute to the Bayanihan Fund should be emulated and replicated. Some Alyansa Agrikultura leaders already have contributed their share. But the leaders believed much more could have been collected if the government had just done its job, such as combat smuggling.

$10-billion discrepancy

The United Nations Council for Trade And Development (UNCTAD) website shows a $10-billion discrepancy between our government's record of importation and the exports our trading partners say they have sent to the Philippines. If the reports are correct, the discrepancy primarily may be due to either outright or technical (e.g. undervaluation, misdeclaration, misclassification) smuggling.

Assuming a 10% Value Added Tax and a modest 5% tariff rate, this amounts to P84 billion in potential lost revenue. This is almost one third of the entire budget deficit.

Other measures, such as increasing Napocor's power rates should be addressed. Napocor losses are projected at P114 billion this year. But if officials raise the power rate too much, this will have an inflationary multiplier effect, causing the spiraling of prices, detrimental to our consumers. They will also cause additional cutback of already scarce jobs.

On the other hand, curbing smuggling will increase our revenue significantly and save the jobs lost from unfair competition brought on by smuggled goods.

Two days ago, at the second meeting of the Multi-Sectoral Coalition Against Smuggling (MCAS), two key anti-smuggling measures to address the fiscal crisis were announced. For these bold moves, Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner George Jereos should be recognized for his political will.

Inward Foreign Manifest

The IFM is a document that lists the goods on a specific vessel coming in from abroad. An electronic copy is given to the Customs bureau at least two days before the shipment's arrival, while a hard copy is provided upon arrival.

For more than 15 years, other government agencies were denied access to these IFMs. Since the BOC was the only agency with access, there was no check-and-balance mechanism for the accurate reporting of imported goods. This might explain why there was a $10-billion discrepancy between BOC records and the reports of our trading partners. At the MCAS meeting, it was announced that the BOC would now provide IFM access to the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In the past, if there were 100 container vans of imported onions arriving in a given month, the BOC would know this ahead of time. But the DA, with its quarantine responsibility and duty to protect the farmers, would only know what the BOC chose to tell them. Thus, many containers were smuggled through Customs without the DA's knowledge.

*Now that the DA will have access to the IFMs, this may no longer happen. Access to the IFMs may be the single most powerful tool in preventing smuggling because of this new check-and-balance system.

Audits of CBWs

Customs Bonded Warehouses are establishments meant primarily for products that are processed and then re-exported. Because of this, they do not pay taxes and duties. However, some of these products are sold into the local market. By then the importers must pay the required taxes and duties. Unfortunately, many do not do this and are therefore guilty of smuggling.

According to Jose Sereno of the Association of the Petrochemical Manufacturers, there are many legitimate CBWs, but there are others that merely serve as fronts for smuggling. In 2003, it is alleged that 70 percent of the estimated $137 million in CBW resin imports are smuggled into the country.

The problem is that the Bureau of Customs is the group that audits the CBWs, which they themselves supervise. It was suggested at the Sept. 8 MCAS meeting that the private sector would be allowed to participate in the CBW audit.

Two days ago, Commissioner Jereos announced he would allow private sector participation in the CBW audits, provided the concerned CBWs would agree.

At first, some were skeptical. But during the MCAS meeting, Jose Concepcion said this could be achieved since it was done during his incumbency as DTI secretary. Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, added that private firms participating in the audit should always safeguard the confidentiality of information necessary for the CBWs' competitive positioning.

During the meeting, it has been suggested that sectoral associations and independent auditors take part in the procedure to ensure objectivity and the protection of the CBWs concerned.

With the new arrangements, the legitimate CBWs will be strengthened while the illegitimate ones terminated because of their smuggling activities.

Conclusion

Customs Commissioner Jereos and the BOC should be commended. They have built on the good work of former Commissioner Antonio Bernardo by focusing on the strategic areas of IFM access and private sector participation in CBW audits. These are precisely the areas where tremendous impact can be made by just an act of political will.

The MCAS still recommends the immediate restoration of the three abolished anti-smuggling bodies, including the Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Information Center (Asiic), with its forty-person complement devoted full time to fight smuggling. Nevertheless, with the two anti-smuggling measures, the MCAS members believe that they are now in a better position to address the fiscal crisis and provide the necessary environment for job creation.

(*The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.*)

Government urged to protect ₱2.5B in Philcomsat assets

PHILIPPINE Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) shareholder Victor Africa is urging government to protect itself from further losses by joining his group of shareholders in the board of the country's oldest satellite communications company.

In a press conference yesterday, Africa, who claimed he had been the company's de facto president since the time of former President Joseph Estrada, said government should validate which board should sit in Philcomsat.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCCG) owned 35 percent of Philcomsat and its parent firm Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), Africa said.

There is a legal tussle as to who would sit in the board of the Philcomsat group since 1998, when former ambassador to Spain Manuel Nieto and government nominee Ronaldo Salonga allegedly called a social gathering at the Manila Golf Club that later turned into a special stockholder's meeting which resulted in their installation as officers and directors of Philcomsat.

Africa said his group's authority to head the board of the Philcomsat Group on the other hand had been recognized under former President Estrada.

If government were to value its 35 percent stake in the Philcomsat Group, it would be worth roughly between P2.5 billion and P3.5 billion based on unaudited financial records, officials said.

The Securities and Exchange Commission recently validated the stockholder's meeting of the Nieto Group. The Court of Appeals however issued a restraining order against the enforcement of the SEC ruling. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NTC threatens Piltel over unpaid dues

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission yesterday said it could revoke the license of Pilipino Telephone Corp. if the company would refuse to settle some P1.3 billion in regulatory fees.

The NTC said Piltel has no reason not to settle its obligation considering the Commission was amenable to accepting payment on installment.

Piltel, a subsidiary of Smart Communications Inc., is contesting the NTC's computation of the fees, which is why it had not paid the regulatory dues since 1997. Smart said the NTC must refund the carrier about P600 million for overpaid charges on spectrum users' fee.

Piltel's balance of about P1.3 billion in unpaid supervision and regulation fee from 1997 to September 2004 had grown from P1.06 billion as of end-2003.

NTC chair Ronald Solis warned that the NTC might initiate administrative sanctions against Piltel and the continuing disregard might force the Commission to revoke the company's licenses and authorization.

The Commission is considering Piltel's 3.5 million subscribers as of the first half before imposing any harsh penalties on the telecom firm, according to NTC chair Ronald Solis.

"We are open to staggered payment because other carriers are doing that," said Solis. "We could impose additional penalties, fines or even revoke their license. But this is one big balancing act."

Just the same, the NTC is tightening the approval process for requests of telecom companies with unpaid regulatory fees. Piltel's application early this year for registration of 368 public calling offices or Tawag N' Text Centers had not been approved.

Phone, media and cable companies are given until the end of this month to settle their supervision and regulatory fees, computed as 50 centavos for every P100 of paid capital. The NTC also collects a permit fee computed at the same ratio, a spectrum users fee and radio station license fee.

Solis said as of August, the NTC had already collected about P520 million in fees. The Commission is expecting to collect an additional P700 million by the end of the month.

The NTC chief said it was standing by its computation of the fees.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 23, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	45	45	811,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	42	41.5	42	73,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.45	2,280,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	28	28	171,600
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	60
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	300
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	4,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	40,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	4,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	24.5	24	24	12,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2450	2450	2450	2450	730
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	493,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1630	1630	1595	1595	420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21.25	21	21	26,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.76	0.67	0.76	27,840,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1085	1085	1060	1070	83,070
Ipeople Inc.	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	125,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.036	8,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	120,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	13,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	4,625,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1340	1370	1340	1370	88,280
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.65	2,490,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	20,400
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.5	427,900
Petron Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	6,871,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	6,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	166,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.85	4,935,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	1,070,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	900,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.38	2.48	2.38	2.48	4,007,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	60,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	9,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	3,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	108,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	6,000
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	240,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	402,400
San Miguel Corp. B	70	71	70	70.5	217,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	1,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	16,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.4	6,759,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	91,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	2,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	100,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.62	1.62	22,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.56	6,500,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	930,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.155	0.155	0.145	0.155	2,910,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.14	2.14	4,419,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	1,400,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	17,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	27	27	342,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	7,900,000
Ionics Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.1	2.1	483,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.82	321,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	270,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.22	5,082,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	18,670,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.15	0.16	[illegible]
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	[illegible]
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.225	7,020,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.8	1.84	1.76	1.8	45,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	2,250,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	130,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	70,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21.25	21	21.25	679,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	35,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,997,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	650,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.43	9,860,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	430,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	7,550,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	5,927,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,520,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	590,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	8,225,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3.1	3	3	75,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	27,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	510,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	73,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	44,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	836,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	80,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	130,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	189,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	19,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	72,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000

CURRENCIES

September 23, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.810504	1.000000	56.3220
Japan	Yen	0.007372	0.009048	0.5096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461952	1.794400	101.0642
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104465	0.128220	7.2216
Switzerland	Franc	0.647073	0.794218	44.7319
Canada	Dollar	0.634822	0.779180	43.8850
Singapore	Dollar	0.480894	0.590249	33.2440
Australia	Dollar	0.576026	0.707014	39.8204
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.161146	2.652590	149.3992
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217262	0.266667	15.0192
Brunei	Dollar	0.479479	0.588512	33.1462
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019694	0.024172	1.3614
UAE	Dirham	0.221816	0.272257	15.3341
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.227400	69.1296
Argentina	Peso	0.271351	0.333056	18.7584
Brazil	Real	0.284076	0.348675	19.6381
Denmark	Kroner	0.134326	0.164872	9.2859
India	Rupee	0.017797	0.021844	1.2303
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214409	0.263165	14.8220
Mexico	New Peso	0.071396	0.087631	4.9356
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539843	0.662603	37.3191
Norway	Kroner	0.119431	0.146589	8.2562
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013767	0.016898	0.9517
South Africa	Rand	0.125478	0.154012	8.6743
Korea	Won	0.000708	0.000710	0.0491
Sweden	Kroner	0.110520	0.135652	7.6402
Syria	Pound	0.022550	0.027678	1.5589
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024169	0.029665	1.6708
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000425	0.000522	0.0294

Current account . . .

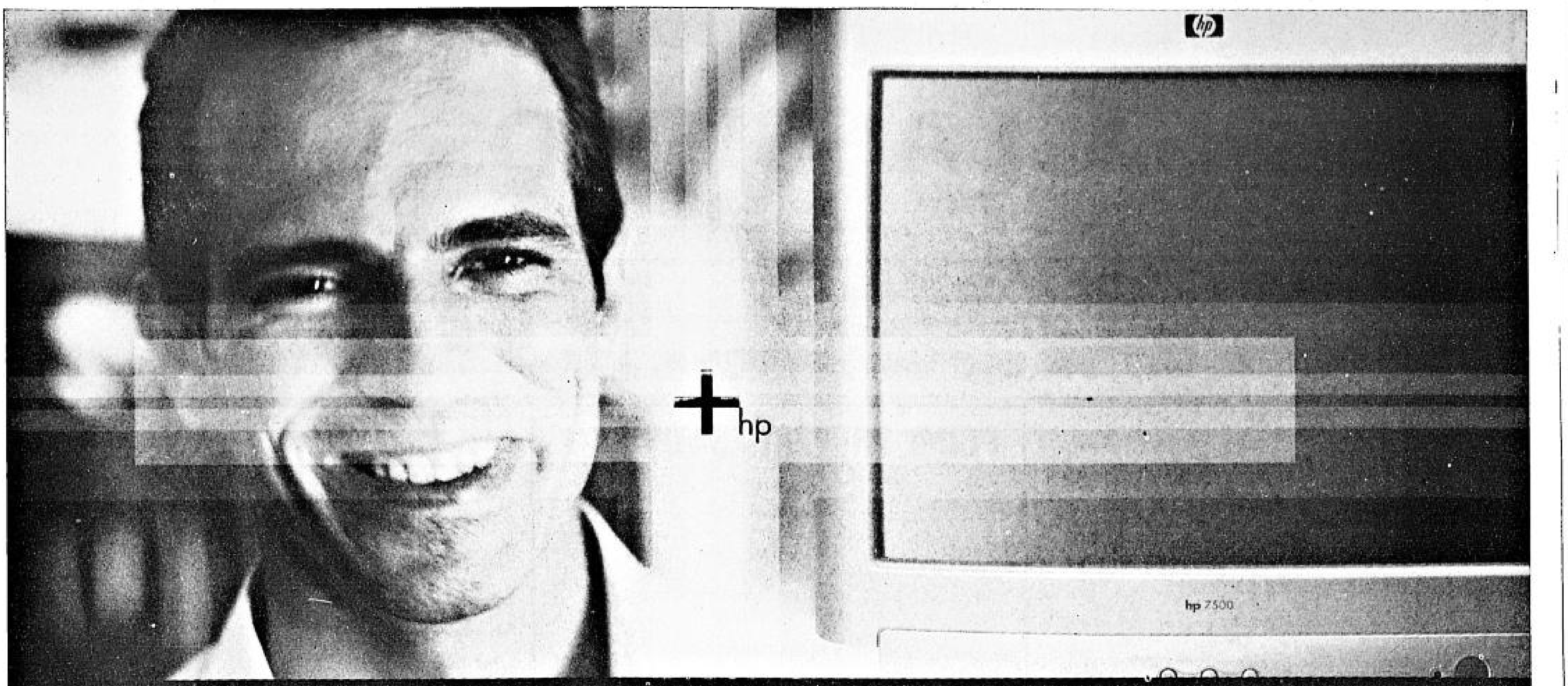
From page B1

steady signs of recovery of the world economy and the continued strength in the global IT (information technology) demand."

The current account surplus in the second quarter stood at $1.12 billion or 5 percent of gross national product, or more than double the $555 million surplus in the same period last year.

"The significant improvement was traced to the narrowing of the deficit in both the trade-in-goods account, which more than offset the weakening of the net receipts from the income and current transfers accounts," Guinigundo said.

For the full year, however, the overall BOP is expected to yield a deficit of $505 million, down from a surplus of $111 million in 2003 due to bigger maturing obligations. Doris C. Dumlao



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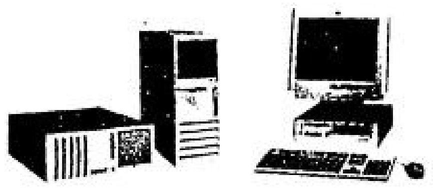

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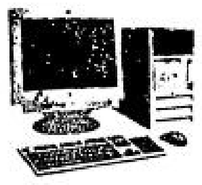

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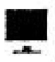

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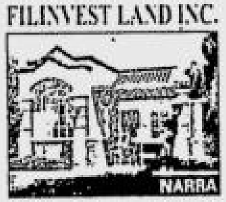

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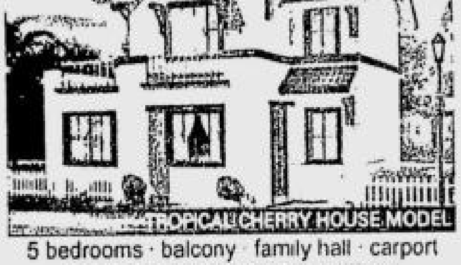

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 106, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR
ISSUANCE OF DECREE OF ADOPTION
OF MINORS FERDINAND PAULO and
PAULA DENISE BOTH SURNAMED PAJARIT

SP. PROC. NO. Q-04-53154

JUDITH R. PAJARIT,
Petitioner.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER OF HEARING

A verified Petition was filed by Judith R. Pajarit, thru counsel, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered declaring her to be the adoptive parent of minors FERDINAND PAULO and PAULA DENISE, both surnamed PAJARIT.

Petition alleges, inter alia:

Petitioner is a former Filipino citizen, of legal age, now a citizen of the United States of America, permanently residing at 48 Mateo Avenue, Daly City, California, USA and presently residing in the Philippines at 183-B J.P. Rizal St., Project 4, Quezon City; that she is single, with no legitimate, illegitimate or other adopted children or descendants; that she desires to adopt minors Ferdinand Paulo, 13 years old and Paula Denise, 6 years old, her relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity; that minors biological parents are Ferdinand Llaneza Estojero and Jovelin Miriam Austria Pajarit, that she is the maternal aunt of minors' mother; that she is in possession of full civil capacity and legal rights, of good moral character, has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude and emotionally and psychologically capable of caring for children; that she is more than 16 years older than the minors and is definitely in a much better position to support and care for the minors in keeping with the means of the family; that she has been employed by the huge telecommunications company AT&T as Technical Consultant in the United States; that the biological parents of the minors are not married and are now formally separated from each other and they are without any steady income to financially support the rearing and education of the minors, that she is shouldering the necessary expenses of the minors for their rearing and education; that minor Ferdinand Paulo is now 13 years old, has voluntarily and knowingly given his written consent and is enrolled at St. Francis Academy of Quezon City while minor Paula Denise is studying at Trinity College of Quezon City, that minors' biological parents are not insane, nor intemperate, nor have they abandoned said minors and with full knowledge of petitioner's intention; that they expressly give their written consent to the adoption of the minors to the petitioner.

WHEREFORE, finding the Petition being sufficient in form and in substance, the same is given due course and is hereby set for hearing on October 6, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at which date and time any interested person may appear and show cause, if any, why the Petition should not be granted.

Let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City and in Metro Manila, before the hearing once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

The Court Social Worker is hereby directed to prepare a case study on the petitioner, the minors sought for adoption as well as the latter's biological parents and to conduct counseling session to them on the matter of adoption and to submit her reports on or before the scheduled hearing.

Petitioner is hereby directed to coordinate with the assigned Court Social Worker to facilitate the preparation of the case study.

SO ORDERED
Quezon City, 20 July 2004

(Sgd.) NATIVIDAD GIRON-DIZON
Judge

(PDI – Sept. 10, 17 & 24, 2004)

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2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T New Complt Sr Impld 7767507

BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS GIE 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

GARAGE SALE

NARRA Furniture 252-6220

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Control weight now 3758988

LOSE WT NOW 09178274640

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late MANUEL Q. ALCANTARA and CONSUELO VELASCO ALCANTARA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc No. 431, Page No. 87, Book No. 424, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Lucila M. Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City
(PDI-Sept. 9,16 & 23, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost ACR Issued To Mr Troy Don Franklin By Bureau Of Immigration On October 17, 2004 Makati City,
PDI- Sept. 20 -24, 2004

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Earn & Travel Sept. 25 9:30am Century Park Hotel Fronting Harrison Plaza Kachina Ballroom 0916-9368917

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Kalipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), in coordination with the National Power Corporation (NPC), will conduct a public bidding for the **Supply and Installation of Accelerometers, for Earthquake Monitoring** at the Angat Hydro-Electric Plant in San Lorenzo, Norzagaray, Bulacan, denominated as **Contract No. AEM-1**. The Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is **P 7,749,280.63** chargeable against the MWSS-NBC common fund.

The bidding is open to all interested Contractors who have previous experience in the installation of the said monitoring instrument.

- ☐ **Major Scope of Work**
  - a. Supply and installation of four (4) units Accelerometers
  - b. Training of MWSS and NPC personnel, which includes lecture on basic seismology and reservoir-induced seismology, and operation and maintenance of the instruments
  - c. Submission of Factual Reports
- ☐ **Implementation Period – 161 calendar days**

Interested parties may apply for eligibility and secure the checklist of the eligibility requirements from the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), located at the address below, starting September 27, 2004:

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Engineering & Project Management Dept.
Ground Floor, MWSS Complex
Kalipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax: 929-6988 / 922-2568

The complete set of eligibility requirements must be submitted by the Applicants on or before **5:00 p.m. of October 14, 2004.** Only those Eligible Applicants, evaluated by the BAC based submitted eligibility requirements, will be invited to submit their bid proposals on the date of bidding, which will be announced later.

The reference time for the submission of eligibility requirements shall be the Bundy clock located at the above address. Late submission will not be accepted.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI – September 24 & 30, 2004)

IBB

Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for a Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision. Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have initiative, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMO) in Bangkok; Maintain close contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jmngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to *IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Rm 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand.* Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

THORESEN & CO., (BANGKOK) LTD.

Thoresen is a Bangkok based shipping group, quoted on the stock exchange of Thailand, and involved in ship owning, operating, agency, brokering, stevedoring, forwarding and port operations. Our growing fleet consists of 43 bulkers and tween deckers in the 15-52,000 dwt size range. For more information about the group, please visit our website at www.thoresen.com. For our **Maritime Operations Division** in Bangkok, we are seeking applications from Philippine nationals for the following positions:

MARINE AND ENGINEER SUPERINTENDENTS
(1 POSITION EACH)

Objective – ***to achieve technically sound, professionally competent, safe, clean and competitive vessel operation, providing the best cargo care every single day of the year.***

The position will involve the standard superintendency role in handling 8-10 vessels with Philippine crew sailing in regional and liner trades as well as worldwide dry bulk trades.

The successful candidate will be a minimum of 30 years old with relevant superintendent experience and will be enthusiastic about working in Thailand on a single posting status.

Salary/Benefit Package will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For further details please contact:
Mr. Clinton De Souza
E-Mail: ades@thoresen.com

Send application with CV and recent photograph to:
Thoresen & Co., (Bangkok) Ltd.
Attn: Mr. Pongsak Kanchanakpan
General Manager, Group Personnel and Administration
GPO Box 1587, Bangkok 10501, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 250-0569 Fax: +66 2 655-3906

Manila Representative Office:
Norteam Shipping Services, Inc.
Suite 201 ITC Bldg. 337 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City 1200
POEA LIC No. 192-SB-030804-R
Phn: (632) 8999445 / 8907746
Fax: (632) 8969004 / 8969006

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Air Logistics and Support Command
HEADQUARTERS 420th SUPPLY WING, PAF
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air force
(Air Force City)
Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE TO PUBLIC BIDDING

The PAF Disposal Committee will receive sealed bids until 14 October 2004, 8:50 AM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"As is where Is"** basis.

Lot Number/Description	Location	Min Bid Price
5-257-009 – One (1) lot of 10,532 line items of aircraft parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 901,125.00
5-257-010 – One (1) lot of 29,110 line items of aircraft parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 1,012,500.00
5-257-011 – One (1) lot of 22,245 line items of aircraft parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 1,123,200.00
6-222-03 – Consisting of One (1) NOMAD a/c carcass tail#RP 15	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 36,000.00
6-106-037 – Consisting of Two (2) F-5 a/c w/ tail #323 & 505	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 247,500.00

NOTICE OF SALE TO PUBLIC NEGOTIATION

Lot Number/Description	Location	Min Bid Price
5-283-022 – Consisting of Ten (10) T-28 engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 405,000.00
5-283-023 – Consisting of Eight (8) T-28 engines without canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P 388,000.00

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price
4. To be on time. No bid will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre bid conference and issuance of Bid Forms P200.00 will be on **7 October 2004, 9:00 AM** at **Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.**
6. Inspection schedule will be from **30 September 2004** to **01 October 2004**, at **0800H to 1600H Thursday** and **Friday**.
7. Opening of bids will be on **14 October 2004, 9:00 AM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.**

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule inspection, call 1LT MARIBELLE A BELILA PAF at (045) 599-2015 loc 6524 or cell nr 09175035079.

(Sgd.) **GILBERT S LLANTO**
Colonel PAF (GSC)
Deputy Wing Commander, 420th SW
Chairman, PAF Disposal Committee

(PDI -Sept. 23, 24 & 25, 2004)

CALL FOR EXHIBITORS! SIGN-UP NOW!

5th HEALTH & ORGANIC SHOW 2004

November 05-07, 2004

Hall 3, 5thFloor, SM Megatrade Hall
Edsa, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

"Your Health, Your Wealth"

A healthy body, a well-balanced lifestyle, clean air and environment inside and outside our home...in this highly urbanized community that we live in where pollution is almost uncontrollable, and SARS endangering our lives...this is what each and every Filipino craves for and gives highest priority to achieve...

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An excellent marketing, promotion, and networking place

Visited by over 12,000 trade visitors in 2003, expand or discover new markets by showcasing your products and services in this must-see event with a unique marketing platform.

A perfect launching venue for health and wellness products and services

Introduce your products and services during the 3-day information-packed program at the Event Activity Area. Get trade opportunities, industry trends, and market developments...

What's on Exhibit

- Natural/Herbal/Organic Food Products
- BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines Consumer Health Care
- Wellness/Lifestyle Products
- Exercise/Fitness and Healthy Living
- Cosmetics, Skin, Hair, and Personal Care Products
- HMO, Medical Insurance, Hospitals, & Medical Clinic
- Medical/Sports Equipment & Hardware
- Alternative Medicine
- Alternative Medicine Practices

Highlights of Activities

- A showcase of different health, wellness, & beauty products by over 60 companies.
- Free lectures by medical/health experts
- Free demonstration on health exercises
- Free consultations/clinics by practitioners such as iridology, reflexology, facial services, bone density test, eye check -up, etc.
- Hands-on demonstration on different products and services.
- Business opportunity seminars by leading health companies.
- Product launching and food tasting

Expected Visitors

Store Merchandisers, Distributors, Wholesalers, Purchasing Managers, Foreign and Local-based Trade Buyers, Retailers, Catering and Food Companies, Medical Practitioners, Healthcare Specialists, Hospital Operators, Health Workers, Specialty Stores Operators, Entrepreneurs, Health Buffs, General Public

Mark your calendar!

Be part of this exciting health show!

CALL FOR ADVERTISERS: 5th HOS 2004 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

A Newspaper Supplement will be published on November 05, 2004, full color. Avail of most effective advertising medium within special ad rates.

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Half page ad	(23 cm x 15cm)	- P 28,431.25
Quarter page ad	(11.5cm x 15cm)	- P 15,650.00

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Seeking Pinoy Entreprenuer to Expand Biz Globally. Sincerely Invite you to our Int'l Biz Preview held in Makati - Training Supervisor 0927-7114699

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WANTED

ARCHITECT (Interior Designer)

- Experienced manual draftsman
- Excellent freehand in interior perspectives
- NO CADD OPERATORS PLS.

Fax resumé & contact number & address
Fax: 634-4462 Ms. Cecile

NOTICE

Mr. Domenador Resare,
Please contact Magdelena Javines Resare about child at 90313649.
Thank You,
Lailen D. Relano

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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JOB OPENING FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS FOR A HEALTH CLINIC W/ OR W/O EXPERIENCE PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME BEFORE SEPT. 30 FROM 10AM - 4PM MON - FRI AT LCS BLDG SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY COR. SAN ANDRES AND DIAMANTE STS MANILA FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 5 6 1 8 0 8 8 FROM 10AM - 4PM MON-FRI LOOK FOR MS SUSAN

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Division of Pasig City & San Juan
Item No : TCHI-54465-1998
OSEC-DECSB-MTCHR I-30103-2001
SGD:
Dr. Abelia C. Macarandan
Div. Schools Superintendent

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Marinduque
MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to apply for eligibility and bid for the construction materials of the improvement of the Sta. Cruz Waterworks System Project.

The approved budget is P7,424,037.00

Eligibility requirements and bid documents are available at the BAC Secretariat office and at the General Services Office, this municipality during office hours from September 17 to September 24, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements and bid documents is on September 27, 2004. The pre-bid conference for qualified bidders is on October 4, 2004, 2:00 PM at the General Services Office, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque. The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to one percent (1%) of the bid price in the form of cashier's/manager's check payable to the Municipality of Sta. Cruz.

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

For further inquiries, please contact Engr. Rustico R. Constantino or Engr. Ruby B. Manay at the Office of the Mayor at telephone number (042) 321-1276.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **LABELLA E. BASCO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 17 & 24, 2004)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

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(632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

Felicidad Martinez de Claro

15 August 1917 – 23 September 2004

*peacefully and with great joy, joined our Lord,
and her beloved husband,* ***Ramon*** *at the age of 87.*

With deep gratitude to our most wonderful mother, we, her children, **Marilou** and **Pabling**, **Jun** and **Joy**, **Boy** and **Corito**, **Erlinda**, **Cora** and **Beny**, **Ernest** and **Dettie**, **Chi**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren, request relatives and friends to join us in thanksgiving for Mom's entry into eternal life, as we pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Mom's remains lie in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Doña Juana Rodriguez St. (formerly Broadway) where daily Thanksgiving Masses at 6:00 P.M. and 8:30 P.M. shall be celebrated.

Cremation will take place on September 25, 2004, after the 2:00 P.M. Funeral Mass on September 25, 2004, Saturday.

ENGR. ROLANDO "ROY" D. PAPA

*Died in the peace of the Lord on September 20, 2004
at the age of 60 in St. Francis Hospital, N.Y.C.*

He is survived by his wife **Rosie Marcelo Papa**; children **Roselle** & **Yuri**, **Roby**, **Ryan** & **Anne** & **Ron**; grandchildren **Annica**, **Sevi** & **Angela**; mother **Elisa "Nene" Papa**; brothers & sisters **Ricky** & **Paloming**, **Shalene** & **Boy**, **Rey** & **Tinggoy**, **Rosanne** & **Lito**, in-laws **Ernie** & **Flery Marcelo**, **Linda** & **Resty Tiangco**, **Tessie** & **Coy Virata**.

His remains will arrive on Saturday midnight. Wake will be on Sunday at his residence 223 C. Arellano St., Malabon, Metro Manila.

FORESTER GREGORIO P. PRINCIPE

**Retired Regional Director - Forestry, Member UPSILON SIGMA PHI
AND BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY**

Peacefully joined his Creator on 21 September 2004 at the age of 72.

His wife **Concha**; loving children and in-laws, **Ernesto** and **Tess**, **Leo** and **Larcie**, **Edgar** and **Cecille**, **John** and **Abie**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 25, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

---

*"Hear me in the wind
See me in the season's change
Be glad in the moment."*

The Philippine Breast Cancer Network
marks the September 23rd as

Fallen Breast Cancer Warrior's Day

All are enjoined in a moment of silence in memory of all the women in our country who fought a fierce battle against a most unacceptable environmental epidemic that has become the leading casue of death of women in the Philippines today.

"Kalayaan mula sa Breast Cancer!"

Textline: (0919) 314-2072
Email: <pbcn@iname.com>

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord"
2 Corinthians 5:8

EMILITA "MILITA" LIM CRUZ

Peacefully and happily joined our dear Lord & Blessed Mother on Sept. 22, 2004 at the age of 66.

Her dear children **TINA**, **BABO**, **ISA**, **TONI** and **LALA**; children-in-law **JIGS**, **LIA**, **DENDEN**, **LITO** and **DANNY**; grandchildren, brothers, sisters and other relatives and friends mourn her passing but delight in knowing that she will be finally reunited with **Rogie**, her loving husband in heaven.

Her body lies in state at Chapel A & B, Christ the King Church in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004, schedule to be announced later.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES PROJECT
OFFICE of the BAC CHAIRMAN
Sabung ARC, Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan
Tel. No. 078-826-2114
Contact Person : ______

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) for similar contracts as Medium B to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	: CONCRETING/REHABILITATION OF CULUNG-BAN JUAN FMR
Approved Budget for Contract	: Php 17,605,160.62 (DC+CP+tax)
Estimated Duration	: 150 calendar days
Scope of Work	: Structure Excavation, Embankment, Aggregate Base Course, Aggregate Sub base Course, PCCP, 610mm RCPC Stone Masonry, Box Culvert

Minimum Required Equipment:

No. of Units	Description	Capacity
2	Motorized Grader	110-130 HP
2	Vibratory Road Roller	10 tons at least
1	Water Truck with sprayer	1,500 gal. Capacity
3	1-Bag Conc. Mixer	8 cu.m./day
3	Concrete Vibrator (rod)	
1	Bar Cutter	
1	Stake Truck	
2	Pay Loader	275 HP
12	Ten Wheeler Dump Trucks	10 cu.m./load

Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 28, 2004
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Sept. 21-Oct. 21, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 23, 2004 at 10:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids	Nov. 5, 2004 at 10:00 AM

3. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheets from the BAC Secretariat. Eligibility requirements, in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to The BAC Chairman, Municipal Town Hall, Tuao, Cagayan.
4. Unless otherwise indicated in the instruction to bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRRA-A.
5. Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders at Office of the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipal Town Hall, Tuao, Cagayan upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 1,500.00.
6. The implementing agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) NIDO M. AGLAUA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila
TIN 000-449-457

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Budget and Management Bids and Awards Committee (DBM-BAC) invites G-EPS registered companies/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Security and Janitorial Manpower Services for FY 2005 in accordance with the following terms and schedule:

Project Title	Approved Budget for the Contract	Pre-Bid Conference	Advance Eligibility Submission	Deadline/Opening of Bids
Security Manpower Services	P5,861,000.00	October 8, 2004 9:00 A.M.	October 15, 2004 9:00 A.M.	October 22, 2004 9:00 A.M.
Janitorial Manpower Services	P5,500,000.00	October 8, 2004 9:00 A.M.	October 15, 2004 1:00 P.M.	October 22, 2004 1:00 P.M.

Bid documents shall be available at the Office of the Director, Administrative Service (AS), G/F, Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila starting September 17, 2004 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the AS Conference room, G/F, Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila.

For more information, please call the DBM-BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 735-49-02.

The DBM reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive, lowest calculated bid, and most advantageous to the government.

This supersedes the first invitation to bid published in the same newspaper on September 1, 2004.

(Sgd.) LUIS C. LIWANAG II
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI · September 17 & 24, 2004)

MAXICARE PARTNERS WITH PMAP CONFAB

Maxicare Healthcare Corporation partners with the 41st Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and inks its sponsorship last Sept. 16 at the Equitable PCI Building in Makati City. Shown in photo are (seated from left) Josephine C. Aguilar, Maxicare senior vice president for sales and marketing, Sergio LL Naranjilla, Jr., Maxicare managing director, and Grace Abella-Zata (PMAP vice president and 41st Annual Conference chair). Looking on are (standing from left) Aurelio Sanchez III, assistant vice pres.-Maxicare, Genevieve Cura, advertising & promotions associate of Maxicare and Malou V. Bustos (PMAP finance and admin. manager).

More Classifieds on Page A1 27

‘Metricating’ . . .

From page B16

specific reference to the marketing mix element of "placement" or distribution. It designates three specific placement outlets. First is Amazon.com. Second is the set of leading computer retailers in the country's top 50 metropolitan markets. Third is the rest of the computer retailer population in the remaining major metropolitan areas. The time line is three months for the first two categories of retailers, and six months for the third category.

Does your plan have this weakness?

It's in the criterion of "measurable" where this third objective is not as metricated as the preceding two. All that we have is a reference, for example, to "the leading computer retailers in the top 50 US markets." How many leading retailers these are is left unspecified.

The more serious weakness of the three objectives we're analyzing is in the two important criteria of setting "attainable" and "realistic" marketing objectives. What is an attainable and a realistic objective? How do we know we've set an attainable and a realistic objective before we've formulated the marketing programs necessary to attain that objective?

Space does not allow us to answer those questions. So as they say, *"sa susunod na kabanata" na lang.*

Email your questions or comments to MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com. Or text us at 0919-314-5412.

First step toward . . .

From page B16

the key attractions at Cannes, agency heads, creative directors and clients agree that it is the "winning" that makes the Cannes experience sweet and complete. But how important is it to win at Cannes? While some see the value in international recognition, there are those who feel that winning is merely a feather in a Creative's cap with little or no significance to anyone else.

Micky Domingo, McCann Erickson Philippines VP and Executive Creative Director, contends that Philippine participation and visibility at Cannes is crucial today when "most of our major clients operate on a global scale and a lot of advertising is done on a regional level."

"It is important to be seen as a point of creative excellence in our part of the world," stresses Domingo. "Otherwise, we run the risk of merely translating or adapting the work that was done elsewhere."

At a time where the industry's survival is challenged by the increasing globalization of ideas, it has become important, if not essential, to promote the country's talent beyond national boundaries.

According to TBWA Managing Partner Tong Puno, it is important to "showcase Filipino advertising creativity which in the age of globalized multinational companies and brands is crucial in having the Philippines be their choice center of creative work for use in their global and regional networks."

McDonald's, for instance, has chosen to make more use of agencies around the world rather than relying on one agency to take the lead worldwide in promoting a singular brand message. With the growing popularity of global marketing, recognition at Cannes is becoming increasingly important for the survival of agencies and production houses wishing to compete globally.

"As the world becomes global, it is important to be part of the loop," adds Castro. "It is important to be considered a contributor in an industry of ideas. Winning at Cannes makes the Philippines a legitimate contributor."

According to David Guerrero, Chair and Chief Creative Officer of BBDO Guerrero Ortega, recognition at Cannes helps both agencies and their clients attain a "global benchmark of excellence in what you do." It also makes the country "more credible as a 'creative center in Asia' which is what many of us want to be."

Relevance to agencies

While winning at Cannes may seem a "long-shot" for now, some creative directors believe that the value of Cannes comes from the credibility it gives to creative work and agencies, which in turn helps to grow the industry to its full potential.

"Winning can earn clients and suppliers a reputation as world-class professionals who are bold and dynamic," emphasized Domingo. "It can give them unequivocal credibility and will give their brands and the advertising 'talk value' even long after the ad is off the air."

"As a creative person, it is important to win a Cannes Lion because it's a great or even the greatest way to measure your creativity," states Merlee Jayme, BBDO Executive Creative Director. "It proves that your thinking and standards in creativity is either at par or better than your colleagues worldwide."

"Even the effort of trying to win improves the work," adds Guerrero. "Many people look at advertising as a linear process. But consumers—and Cannes judges—only see the end result. So looking at things this way, you have to start with 'what will engage the viewer.' The world is discovering that telling isn't selling. People must want to buy. And the best examples of ads that do that are what Cannes celebrates."

This realization is perhaps one of the reasons why the Cannes International Advertising Festival continues to be as relevant to agencies as it is today. Whereas winning used to be the "icing on the cake," it is now vital to the growth and continuing relevance and reputation of the local advertising industry in today's global world.

Moreover, according to Domingo, "a win at Cannes will give agencies the credibility we need so that our clients will have greater confidence in allowing us to raise the bar of excellence in our creative standards."

Raising the bar of excellence to world-class standards remains one of the key challenges of the local advertising industry today. Winning at Cannes may very well be the impetus we need to lift our industry to a level of sophistication and excellence of which we can be truly proud.

GREENBELT 3 will be the site of the Cannes Lions Manila next week. Entries of the winners during the Cannes International Advertising Festival will be viewed for the first time in the country.

MALES NOW A SKINCARE MARKET

Men step out of women's section

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

YOU can blame it on the phenomenal success of television show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and how "metrosexual" became part of the dictionary.

Whatever the reason, the verdict is clear. Men are getting as comfortable talking about designing their homes, the latest in moisturizers and facial cleansers, as they are about music, sports, cars and, of course, women.

Riding on this trend is Nivea, one of the world's leading skincare brands, which recently came up with a wide range of facial care products designed for men.

Rica King, marketing director for the Philippines of Nivea manufacturer Beiersdorf AG, tells the INQUIRER that products for males, straight or otherwise, are becoming a major category in the skin care industry, due in large part to the men's growing consciousness about how they look.

"Women have long been conscious about taking good care of their skin, but men are fast catching up," she says.

A study conducted last year on Filipino men's facial skin care habits showed that Filipino men were most concerned about having pimples/blemishes, excessive oiliness and blackhead-prone skin.

However, most still used ordinary bar soap twice a day to solve their pimple problems. Others even stuck to just using water.

Asked what they were looking for in facial cleansing products, Filipino men said they wanted a product that left the face feeling fresh; is mild/gentle to the skin, removes blackheads and helps prevents acne/pimples and blemishes.

Shaving is also a major activity among Filipino males.

The study showed 47 percent of Filipinos covered in the survey shaved two to three times during weekdays, 21 percent shaved once a day and 14 percent shaved once a week.

And similar to how they wash their face, they use soap and water with their blade razor/shaver to remover their facial hair.

But if they would buy a shaving product, Filipino males said they would use one that is priced reasonably, can last a long time and will leave their skin feeling fresh after shaving.

With these insights into male consumer behavior, Nivea developed its Nivea for Men line of cleansing, shaving and moisturizing products, one of the first in the industry.

"It is not just about putting products for women in different packaging. We came up with products especially designed to meet men's specific needs," she says.

For facial cleansing, Nivea came up with the Double Action Face Wash to clear away everyday dirt and excess oil, and has conditioning agents to leave skin refreshed.

Nivea also produced a mild shaving foam and shaving gel to protect the skin against razor burn, skin irritation and moisture loss. The mild formula also helps prevent the skin from drying out.

Then there's the Nivea Revitalizing Q10 cream, an anti-wrinkle moisturizer that brings back life into tired-looking skin. Men were found to be as concerned about wrinkles as women.

There are no flowery scents for Nivea for Men products. Instead, the products smell "mountain fresh."

Nivea launched its Nivea for Men line last June and King said actual sales were 600 percent over target, which could mean that the firm underestimated the number of men for whom soap and water are no longer enough.

Nivea also gathered that there was a good number of Filipino men who used to secretly buy their beauty products from the women's section have come out of the open.

"They bought products, although it was not something that the men would openly talk about. But that is changing, especially now that there are products for men," she says.

King expressed confidence that men's caring for their skin is a trend that is here to stay so she expects other skin care firms to follow their lead and come up their own line of products.

Nivea, however, could claim having first cracked the market, thus, encouraging men to come out of the women's section of the skin care market and proudly buy their own.

Income tax on government-issued bonds

By Antonette C. Tionko
and Catherine A. Paragua
SGV & CO

TAX-FILES

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) recently issued BIR Ruling No. 007-2004 dated July 16, 2004, on income tax on government-issued bills and bonds. This ruling modifies and supersedes all prior rulings of the BIR on this matter.

Provisions of the tax code

As a general rule, a final tax of 20 percent is imposed on the interest income from any currency bank deposit and yield or any other monetary benefit from deposit substitutes and from trust funds and similar arrangements derived from sources within the Philippines. [Sections 24(B)(1), 25(A)(2), 27(D)(1) and 28(A)(7)(a)] For Philippine citizens, resident aliens, and non-resident aliens engaged in trade or business in the Philippines, however, the Tax Code of 1997 grants a tax exemption. If the interest income is from long-term deposit or investments, the same will be exempt from tax. This is to encourage individuals to put their savings in long-term investments.

However, if the holder of the certificate pre-terminates the deposit or investment before the fifth year, a final tax is imposed depending on the holding period:

4 years to less than 5 years—5%;

3 years to less than 4 years—12%; and

Less than 3 years—20%.

The term long-term deposit or investment certificate refers to certificate of time deposit or investment in the form of savings, common or individual trust funds, deposit substitutes, investment management accounts and other investments with a maturity period of not less than five years, the form of which will be prescribed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and issued by banks only (not by non-bank financial intermediaries and finance companies) to individuals in denominations of P10,000 and other denominations as may be prescribed by the BSP. [Section 22 (FF)]

In this connection, a deposit substitute is an alternative form of obtaining funds from the public (the term public means borrowing from 20 or more individual or corporate lenders at any one time), other than deposits, through the issuance, endorsement or acceptance of debt instruments for the borrower's account, for the purpose of relending or purchasing receivables and other obligations, or financing their own needs or the needs of their agent or dealer. [Section 22(Y)]

Background

The Bureau of Treasury (BTr), the government agency mandated to issue, service, and redeem government securities for the account of the national government as may be authorized by the President pursuant to law, has been imposing the 20 percent final withholding tax on its regular (and some of its special) issuances of government securities. The BIR issued several rulings which laid down the basis of identifying those financial assets which would effectively fall within the meaning of deposit substitutes. The BIR ruled that to be a deposit substitute, the borrowing must be made from 20 or more individual or corporate lenders at any one time pursuant to the definition under the Tax Code.

The BTr sought clarification on the meaning of the phrase at any one time and the BIR ruled that this phrase covers only the origination or original issuance of the bonds regardless of whether sale or trading is made in the secondary market (BIR Ruling DA-175-2001). This interpretation was applied in connection with the BTrs first issuance of zero-coupon bonds called PEACE bonds, for which the BIR ruled that since the determining factor in ascertaining whether or not such bonds are deposit substitutes is the original issuance to more than 20 individual or corporate lenders, BTr's issuance to less than 20 individual or corporate lenders will necessarily exclude them from the coverage of deposit substitutes. Such being the case, the time element, i.e., at any one time required in public borrowing will not apply. BTr represented in said ruling that the bonds would not be issued to more than 19 eligible firms/lenders and that the PEACE bond was a special issuance. The authorized amount (up to P50 billion) indicated in the full powers granted by the President would be issued only once.

Now, the BTr poses the following scenarios to the BIR:

1. The Department of Finance (DOF)/BTr may be granted by the President, through presidential full powers, the authority to issue, e.g. P200 billion worth of treasury bonds in tenors of 5, 6, 7, and 10 years for a maximum issue size of P50 billion per tenor. This scenario, by its nature, implies a multiple tranche issue consisting of several originations, and is usually offered through auction, over-the-counter, or in some instances, through Tap method. Even the maximum issue size of P50 billion per tenor may be issued in several tranches depending on the needs of the national government and the prevailing economic or political conditions as of such time;

2. In the above scenario, the BTr may offer bonds using the same full powers through tap, (a manner of sale or offering or government securities open exclusively to government securities eligible dealers [GSEDs] and financial institutions in the event of an acute and protracted shortage of government securities), for any of the authorized tenors. On the standpoint of the government, Tap window is considered a primary issuance or origination;

3. Upon the instance of DOF/BTR, and when circumstances warrant its issuance, it may be granted an authority by the President to issue, e.g., P100 billion of zero coupon bills or bonds in different tenors from three years up to 10 years, and it can be inferred by the nature of such an authority that the issue shall be in several tranches and in several manners of offering, including public offering.

4. Upon the proposal of some financial institutions and whenever necessary to meet public expenditures or for any purpose as may be authorized by law, the DOF/BTr may also be authorized to issue bills or bonds through special issuance. Under this scenario, the Republic (DOF/BTr) may issue the same in single tranche or in several tranches, and may likewise be offered through auction, tap, firm underwriting, or combined bookbuilding and public offering. This is differentiated from the regular issuances usually by its designated name such as, small denominated T-bonds (SDT-bonds) or like in the case of PEACE bonds or PNs, and there are eligibilities attached to it.

On the imposition of the 20 percent final withholding tax on deposit substitutes if the financial assets, i.e., debt instruments and securities are floated as regular issuance as in the first three scenarios above, the BTr maintains that the 20-percent final withholding tax on deposit substitute will be imposed regardless of whether or not there are less than 20 lenders in every origination.

According to the BTr, it does not have to sum up the number of lenders in every issuance as it can be inferred from the nature of a regular issuance that the whole authority, as evidenced by the presidential full powers, consists of as many origination or primary issuance(s) as there are number of tranches, and there is an implied offering to the public in general.

When the government, through the DOF/BTr, issues bonds or other debt instruments, and offers to the public, the said issuance is deemed public borrowing and therefore, the corresponding debt instruments or certificates (whether scripless or documented) should be considered deposit substitutes.

According to the BTr, the foregoing should hold true even in cases of regular issuances of zero-coupon bills/bonds or where bonds/bills are issued at a discount. It has been an established rule that the final tax on the amount earned as discount is generally withheld on the date of issuance of the debt instrument. For tax purposes, the amount of discount which the treasury bills are originally sold by the ROP is considered interest income already earned by the purchaser upon the issuance of the treasury bills.

On the imposition of the 20 percent final withholding tax on deposit substitutes, if the debt instruments and securities are in the nature of special issuance as in the fourth scenario, BTr opines that in determining whether or not the 20 percent final withholding tax will be imposed, the number of lenders will be summed up to determine the actual numbers of would-be holders of such bonds during the origination, assuming there is a pre-conceived plan of issuing such bonds/bills in several tranches, if the BIR interpretation on the 19-lender count is limited on the origination or primary issuance (defined as purchase of lenders/investors from the BTr/government).

Marketing Buzz
BUSINESS Friday
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

CANNES IN MANILA

First step toward global recognition

By Celine R. Madamba

WINNING a Cannes Lion, the Oscars in advertising, is not an easy task. As seen at the recently concluded 51st Annual Cannes International Advertising Festival, it takes more than talent to bring home the bacon.

Creative ideas, whether simple or extravagant, need careful execution and content that is both meaningful and relevant to their intended viewers and readers. While this year's Grand Prix winner for film by TBWA London for Sony Playstation 2 was a mega-production casting 500 extras at a soccer stadium in Brazil, the Grand Prix press winner—"Cops" by DDB London for Volkswagen—was simple and understated in both concept and execution.

As the country's official Cannes Festival Representative, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, together with the Advertising Board of the Philippines, will be bringing to Manila for the first time the winning entries of this year's Cannes International Festival.

Entitled "Cannes Lions in Manila", the exhibit will be held in Greenbelt 3 Makati from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2004 and will showcase the world's best TV, print, outdoor and direct marketing ads.

CANNES LIONS
Manila

According to INQUIRER President and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, "we hope to give the Philippine advertising industry and the general public a taste of world-class creativity through the winning ads at the Cannes Advertising Festival, the most prestigious advertising awards show in the world. Through this, we hope to inspire the local industry to develop its pool of talent and hopefully win the country's first Gold Lion."

Value of winning

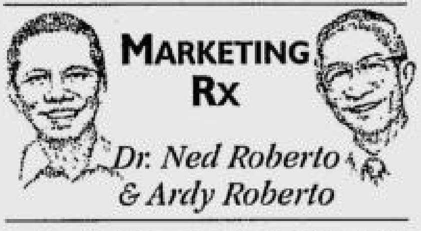
Doing well at Cannes is not only an affirmation of quality work but also a source of pride for agencies, clients and even countries.

According to Raul Castro, VP and Executive Creative Director of Lowe Manila, "nothing compares to the thrill of witnessing a Filipino ad like the Fita Fairy shown and applauded generously by a discerning global audience. It validates what we have always thought about ourselves as a people. We have what it takes to excel globally. Unfortunately, I don't think we're pushing ourselves enough."

While exposure remains one of

FIRST/B15

'Metricating' your marketing objectives



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

LAST week we missed submitting our column to our editor. The senior MRx was stranded on his way to Florida in a Detroit airport by the hurricanes that struck the US East coast. At the same time, the junior MRx was in the middle of another kind of 'storm' that hit Manila last week—the John Maxwell Live in Manila leadership seminars.

In a week or two we'll share the lessons that the junior MRx and his team learned from marketing and producing the largest leadership seminars organized in the Philippines. For the record, there were almost 14,000 attendees at the Araneta last Wednesday, Sept. 15 and about 4,000 delegates at the PICC last Thursday, Sept. 16.

But for now, we'll give you a sneak preview of what the senior MRx has been working on with his co-writer and mentor, Philip Kotler. (That's why the senior MRx was in the US-to work on his new book on marketing planning with Kotler.)

Be SMART about your marketing plan

Setting marketing objectives is the first step in your marketing planning. It is the logical first step because objectives are what your plan is meant to attain.

The marketing plan gains a sharp focus and specific direction when its marketing objectives are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound; i.e., when you have S.M.A.R.T. objectives. SMART objectives are metricated objectives.

One way of understanding the role of metrics in the setting of marketing objectives is by examining a specific set of such objectives. Let's look at a specific case then.

A typical case

Here is a set of specific objectives that came from the marketing plan of a start-up company in the personal digital assistant (PDA) or handheld computer category. The marketing plan is for a new multifunctional PDA the company wants to introduce in the market where the major players are Palm with over 60 percent market share, and Handspring with a 21 percent share. PDAs from Compaq, HP, and Casio, which all run on the Windows CE operating system command less than 10 percent of the market.

Our start-up company is confident that its PDA can gain an active participation in the category. It has developed a PDA with four distinctive strengths. First, versus the leading brands, use of its PDA use is more simplified because of its superior handwriting recognition system. Second, its PDA incorporates valuable features found only in premium priced competing brands. Third, this PDA can accept any Palm-compatible peripheral. Fourth, it's priced lower than comparable models.

This PDA's marketing plan set the following marketing objectives:

- Achieve a first-year sales volume of 240,000, which represents a projected market share of 6 percent with one model in the product line.
- Generate 40 percent brand awareness within the consumer target market and 50 percent brand awareness within the business target market by year end.
- Arrange for distribution through Amazon.com and through the leading computer retailers in the top 50 US markets within three months, followed by distribution coverage in the remaining major metropolitan areas within six months.

Test your marketing objectives

Tested against the SMART criteria for setting objectives, it's easy to see that all three objectives in the sample case qualify as specific, measurable and time-bound. The first objective is specific to two things: sales and market share. Because this objective is about sales and market share, it's also specific to the entire marketing mix or program. As Marketing 101 teaches, because sales and market share are both a function of the total marketing mix, setting objectives in terms of sales and market share has specific reference to the total mix.

This tells us something about the criterion of "specificity." Setting a specific marketing objective must call on our command of basic marketing concepts. Here the particular concept invoked is the concept of matching target market response with the responsible ("causal") marketing tool or tools. The target responses here are specified as sales and market share. Strictly speaking those are not market responses because they refer to the marketer rather than the market. The market response equivalent of sales is consumer purchases while that for market share is purchase or usage share.

Continuing with our analysis and proceeding now to the other two criteria, we can see that for the "measurability" criterion, the unit of measure of sales is in volume, which is 240,000 pieces. Market share's unit of measure is in percent, in this case, 6 percent. As to the criterion of "time boundedness," the sales and market share objectives' time line is specified for both as one year, the first year.

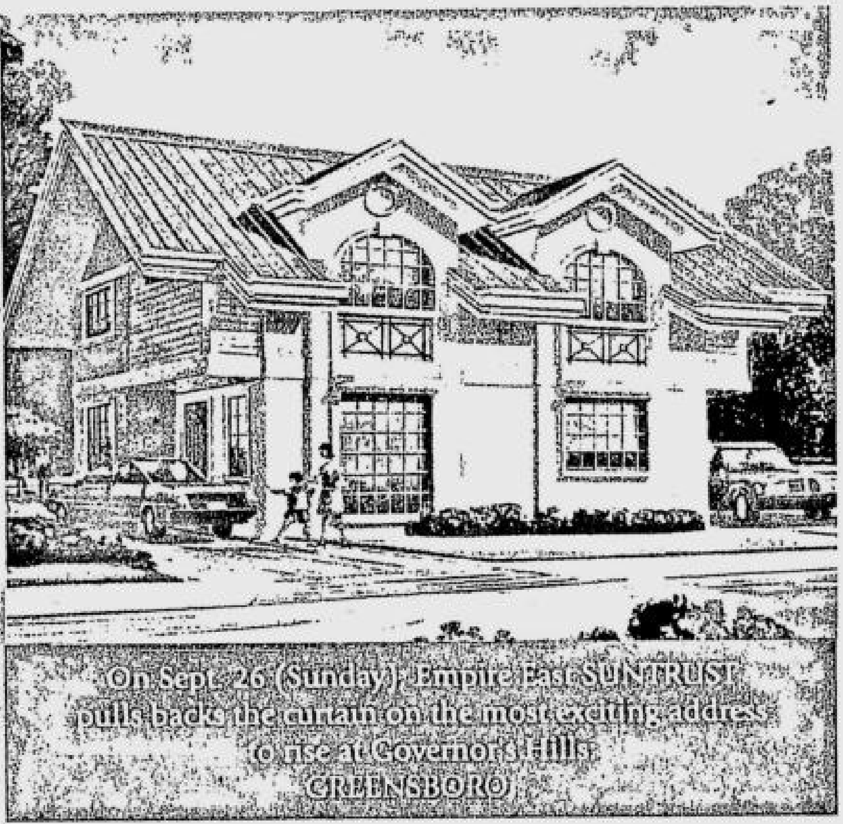
The second objective is specific to the market response of brand awareness. However, the brand awareness response has specific reference to two market segments. One is to the consumer segment. The other is to the business segment. An additional specificity of this objective is the target response's responsible marketing tool. Marketing 101 tells us that brand awareness is a function of advertising media weight (the product of reach times frequency). Therefore, this objective is specific to the marketing mix element of advertising media weight or investment. The objective's unit of measure is in percent: 40 percent for the consumer segment, and 50 percent for the business segment. Its timing is one year.

The third objective makes

METRICATING/B15

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR CAVITE'S TRENDSETTING TOWNSHIP

GOVERNOR'S HILLS
GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE



On Sept. 26 (Sunday), Empire East SUNTRUST pulls backs the curtain on the most exciting address to rise at Governor's Hills: GREENSBORO.

GREENSBORO celebrates a return to nature, generous living space and superb conveniences. Come to the GREENSBORO launching and Grand Open House on Sunday and experience the excitement for yourself. Take a close look at our great new home options, ASHLEY and CHELSEA. Made roomier and cozier for your active and growing family, and your kind of lifestyle.

Join GREENSBORO'S Grand Open House on Sept. 26 (Sun) from 8 AM to 3 PM.
RESERVE YOUR UNIT ON THAT DAY AND ENJOY A SPECIAL P20,000 DISCOUNT.

Free meal/refreshments
and free shuttle service
are available,
with departure time at
8 am, 10 am, 11 am
and 1:30 pm at
The World Centre,
H.V. de la Costa,
Salcedo Village, Makati.
Call 867-8701 for details.

Ashley and Chelsea: More space, more value.

ASHLEY is a duplex-type home with up to 62 sqm of floor area and 77 sqm of lot area. Comes with 2 stories and 2 bedrooms.

CHELSEA I is a stand-alone home with up to 123 sqm of floor area and 154 sqm of lot area. Features 2 stories with 4 bedrooms and a Family Hall.

CHELSEA II is a stand-alone home with an average 115.5 sqm of floor area and 154 sqm of lot area. This 2-story unit comes with 4 bedrooms and a cathedral ceiling.

Now, GREENSBORO gives you more of the space and comfort you want for your family. What's more, its homes are built on Empire East SUNTRUST's energy-saving technology. This means efficiently insulated roofs and wall panels that block heat six times better for big, big savings in electricity.

At GREENSBORO, enjoy restful weekends with your loved ones in your very own park: HAMPSTEAD GARDENS. It has wooden benches, jogging paths, a water fountain and greenery all around—enough to make you forget the cares of the workweek.

OWN A GREENSBORO HOME THE EASY WAY.
PAY AS LOW AS
₱12,900++
A MONTH
UNDER PAG-IBIG'S
70% BALANCE/20 YEARS TO PAY
FINANCING SCHEME.

...and breaks ground for Governor's Hills Science School, bringing academic excellence right where you live.

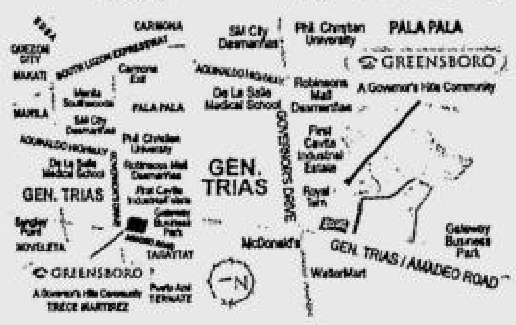
With a curriculum oriented toward science and mathematics, the GOVERNOR'S HILLS SCIENCE SCHOOL will be administered by the same team behind the Laguna BelAir School of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Now, residents of GREENSBORO and other communities at Governor's Hills are assured of a high standard of education for their children—right within the township.

Beginning school year 2005-2006, the Governor's Hills Science School will open classes for Pre-school to Grade 1 levels. In succeeding school years, the school will introduce the next grade levels: Grade 2 in 2006 and Grade 3 in 2007.

At Governor's Hills, quality math-and-science learning for your children will soon be just around the corner.

Governor's Hills is an 89-hectare residential-commercial project of Empire East SUNTRUST in Gen. Trias, Cavite. It is located near leading industrial zones including Gateway Business Park and a host of factories along Governor's Drive. It is accessible from Metro Manila via the Aguinaldo Highway and Coastal Road.

Among its completed amenities are a gazebo, basketball/tennis court and landscaped grounds. Rising soon along Amadeo Road is a commercial center with a hospital or a mini-mall as well as a variety of shops and services.



For an appointment to visit our model houses, call:
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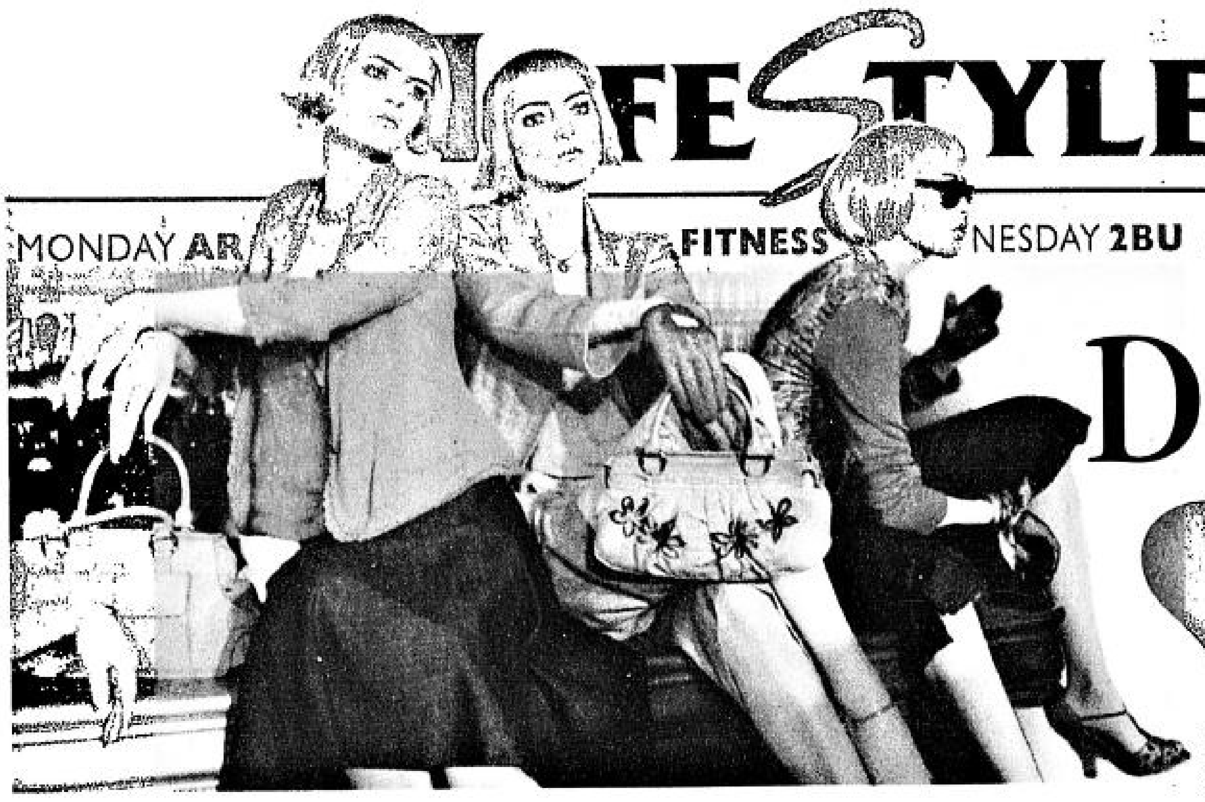
Promo extended until September 30!



Donna Karan ♥ New York

NY TRIO: Cotton cardigan, full pleated skirt; cotton canvas jacket, cotton walking shorts in willow; floral silk/knit cardigan in caraway, cropped pants in polished denim

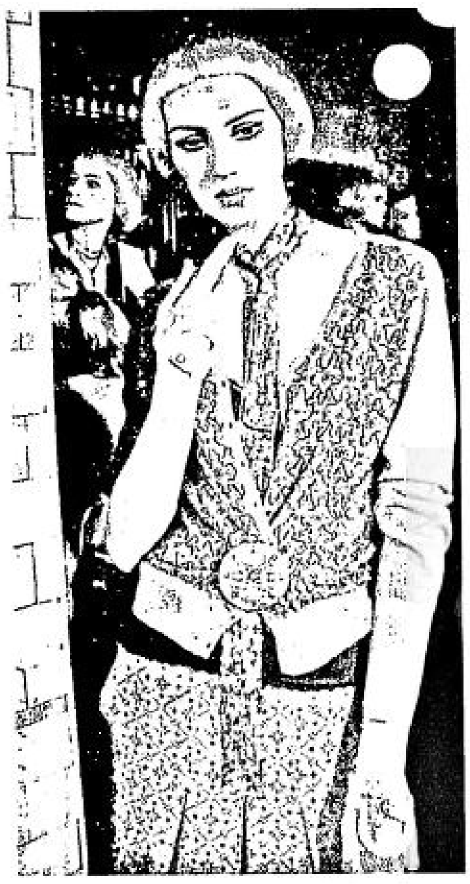
One stylish Sunday in the Big Apple, DKNY shows the urban way of suiting up for spring and summer 2005

Text and photos by Beia Formoso
Contributor

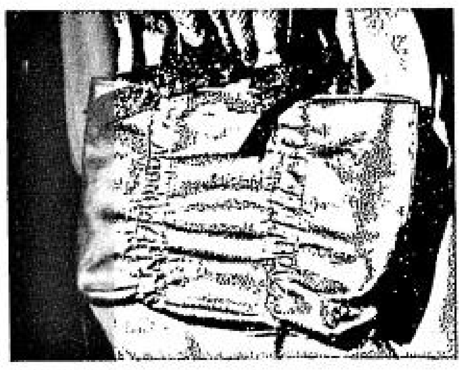
NEW YORK—It is no secret what the last two letters in DKNY stand for. After all, the people, places and life of this famous city have continued to be a source of inspiration for Donna Karan for the past 20 years of her career as a fashion designer.

A bright and warm Sunday morning in New York City sets the mood for a showcase of DKNY's Spring/Summer 2005 collection at the swanky Pastis Café where "Sex and the City" Carrie and Samantha types are likely to

DONNA/ C5



NEW York mosaic: Mosaic beaded cardigan, stretch satin camisole with ribbon detail, mosaic jacquard front-pleated skirt



SHINE ON. Gold bag with ribbon straps

CINDERELLA'S lost slipper: Jeweled pumps

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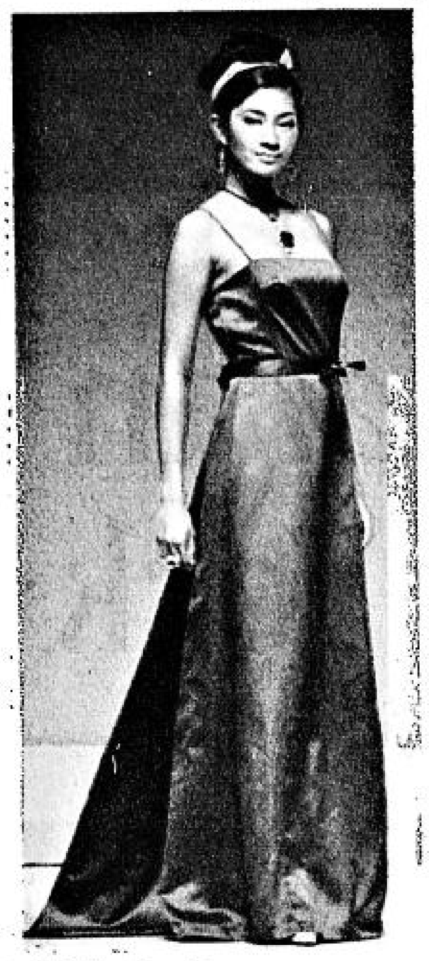
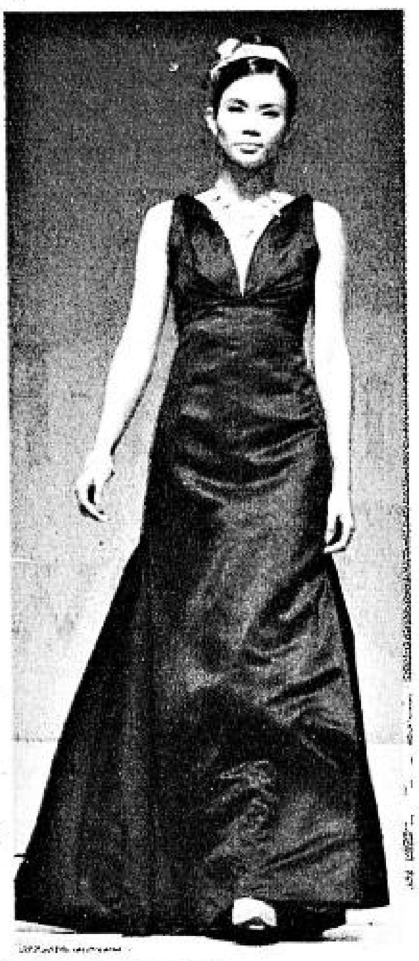
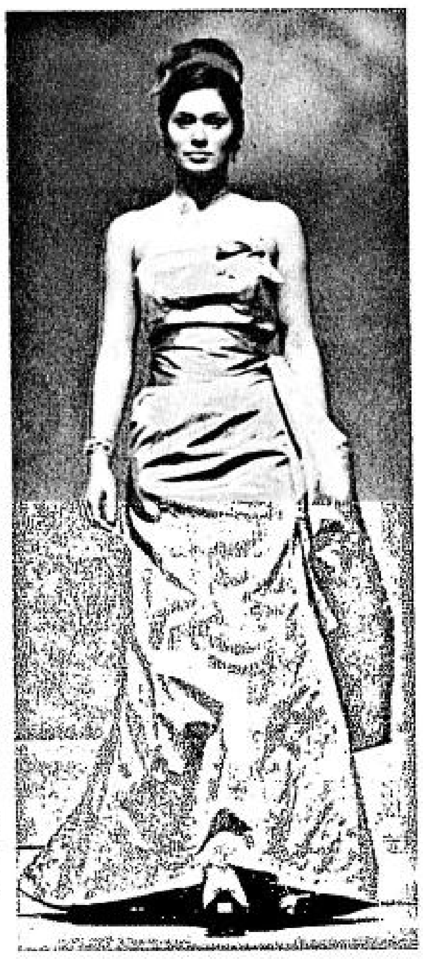
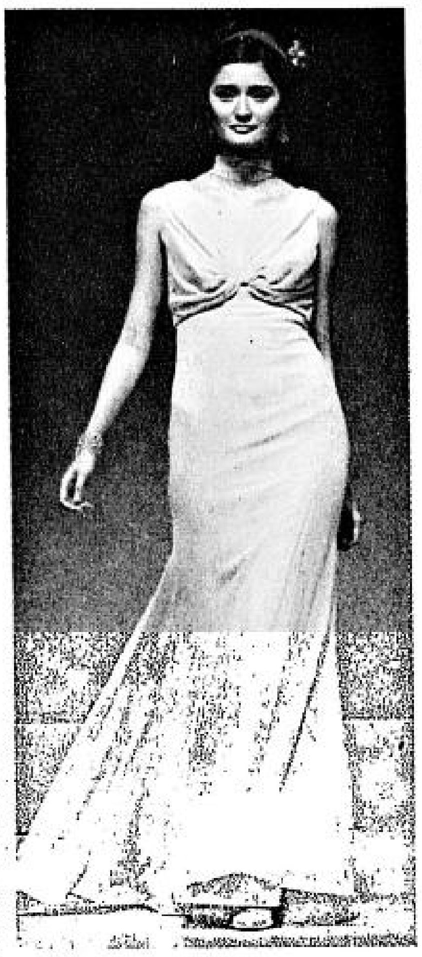
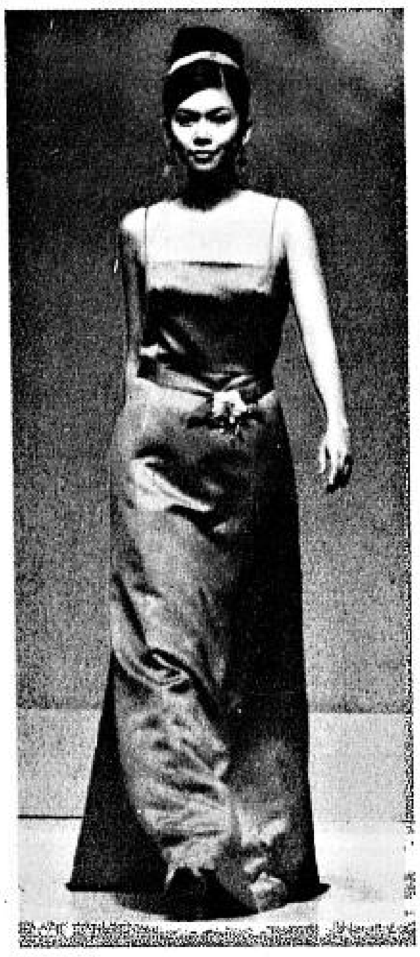

CLOSE to the waist


PLEATS on the chest


SHEEN and strapless


TULLE overlay


FLORAL accent

Wang in a million

American Express launches its new credit card with a show of Vera Wang gowns

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

MANILA'S fashionistas recently got a ringside view of the latest American import to hit the local fashion scene.

To underscore the various lifestyle options available to future members of its Peso Platinum Credit Card, American Express launched its new product along with a fashion show featuring gowns by Vera Wang at the Makati Shangri-La's grand ballroom.

"It's a big day for American Express," says Susanna Hui, American Express' public affairs and communications director for East Asia. "It marks the launching of our very first peso-denominated credit card. And since it's a platinum card, we're bringing in effect a number of the best [lifestyle] options to the Philippines, including fine dining and fashion."

American Express, which produced the show, collaborated with businesswoman and style maven Tina Maristela-Ocampo, who'll be bringing the American fashion designer's off-the-rack creations next month. To set it apart from pieces found at Mix, she and her collaborators, including Mia Borromeo, will be opening a new store in Greenbelt called M.

"We were hesitant to bring Vera Wang to Mix, since the store has always been known for hipper clothes," she says. "There will always be a need for gowns, whether it's a Vera Wang or some other label, and M will be the place to go to."

Wang's gowns, in typical American fashion, were wearable, if a bit sparse. Although not a few pieces are variations of recurring themes—1950s light comes to mind—and elements, this didn't hinder Wang from coming up with a very feminine collection.

This very quality has made her one of America's most sought-after designers of bridal gowns. If it ain't broke, why fix it?

Empire-cut, waist-close

Wang's silhouettes are either empire-cut or close to the waist, and jazzed up with such elements as draped tulle, giant satin ribbons, covered buttons and pleats on the chest area. A few halters and off-shoulder gowns break the monotony, created by a slew of strapless numbers.

The collection's billowy skirts were mostly either paneled or pleated for extra volume. The gowns' simplicity went well with the accessory of the moment: The ubiquitous brooch provided by Jewelmer. Each article of clothing, by the way, is best worn with your hair up.

With shades that ranged from pale pink to light gray, from lavender to the occasional crimson, the collection's color palette was also decidedly feminine. Wang's materials of choice were satin and chiffon—either used individually or combined together—and the occasional tulle overlay.

So you're not as tall and as svelte as top model Jo-Ann Bitagcol? You're not alone. M will have a team of seamstresses to alter the gowns according to a specific client's measurements.

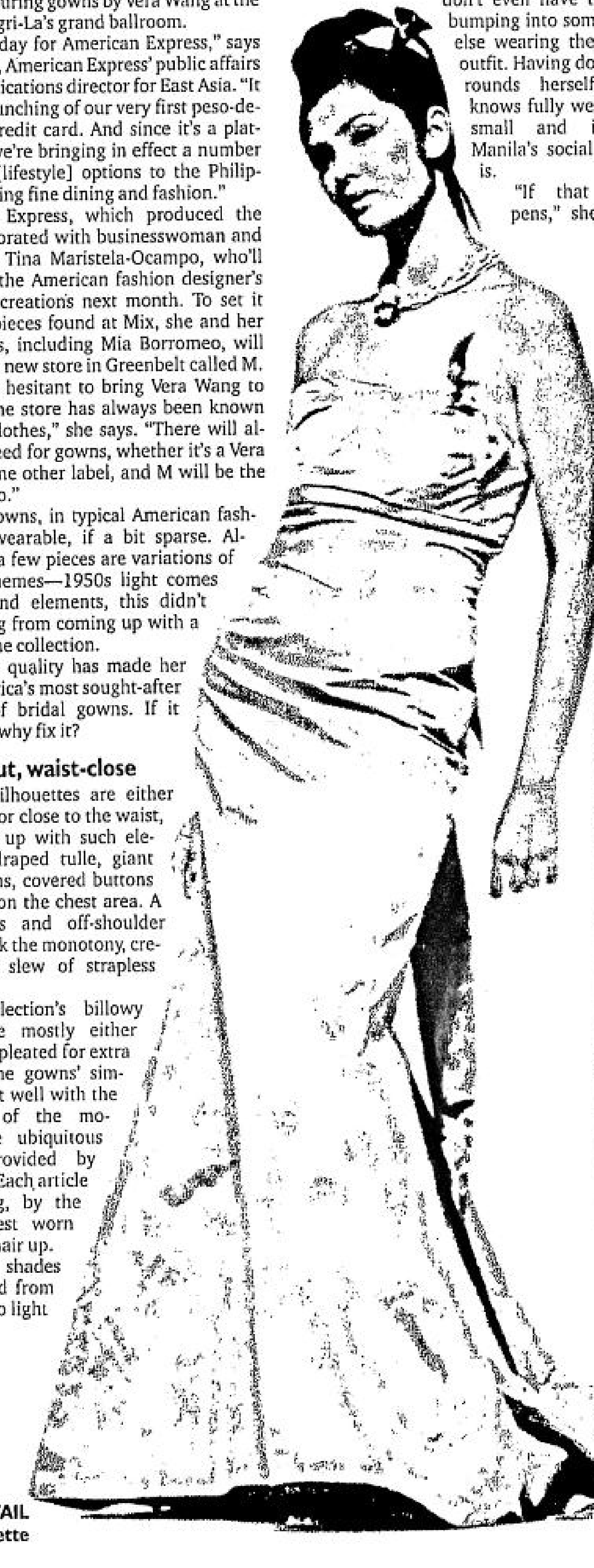
If Maristela-Ocampo is to be believed, you don't even have to fear bumping into somebody else wearing the same outfit. Having done the rounds herself, she knows fully well how small and insular Manila's social scene is.

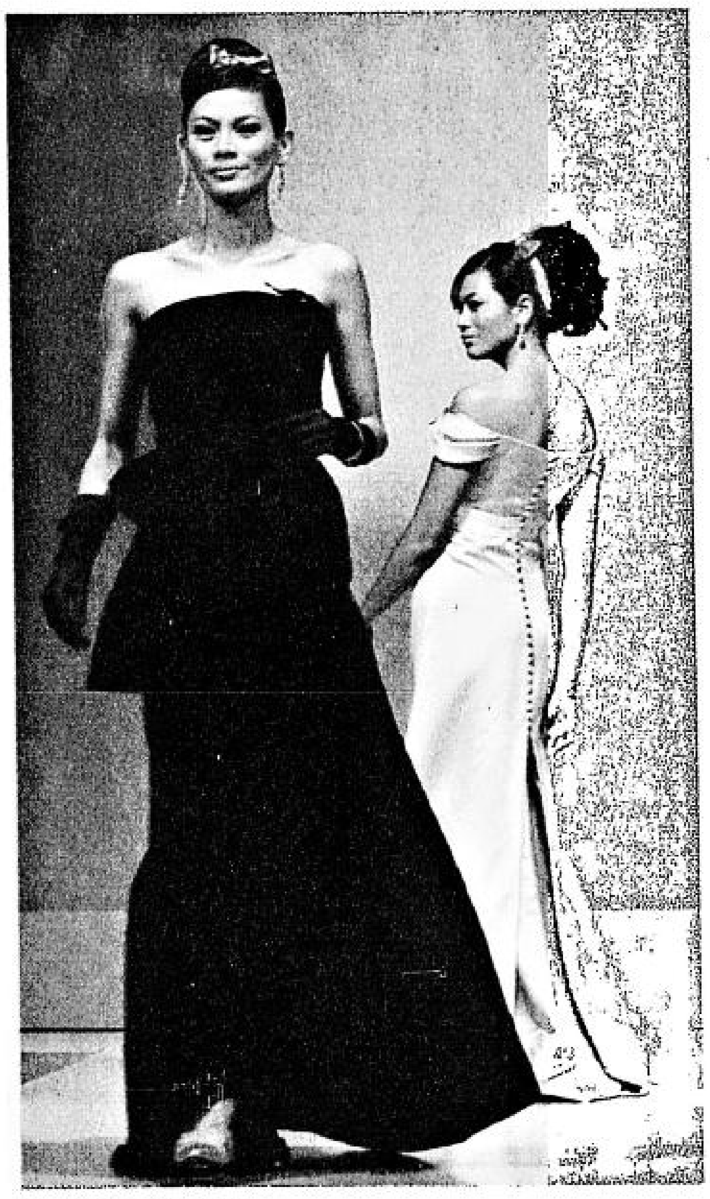
"If that happens," she says, "we make it a point to inform each customer when and where the other [woman] will wear the same or similar gown."

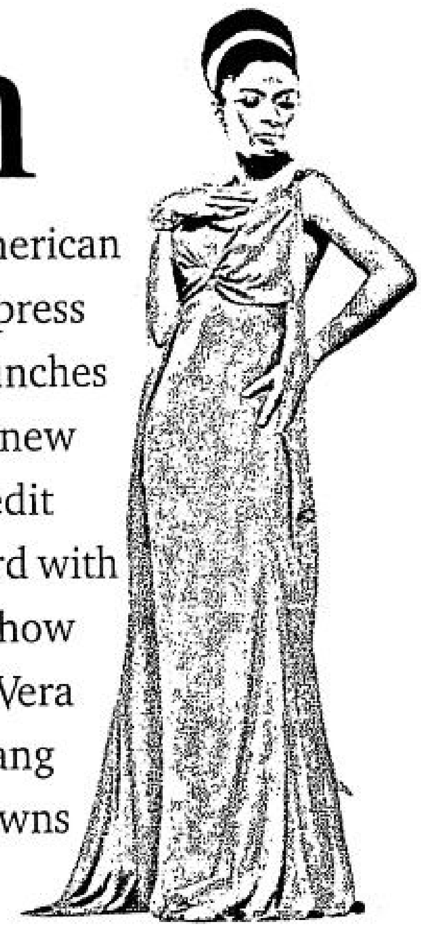
Such a precaution is necessary, as Wang's gowns are priced unbelievably low: P15,000 to P20,000 per number. Do we hear a number of our local designers quaking in their shoes at such rock-bottom prices?

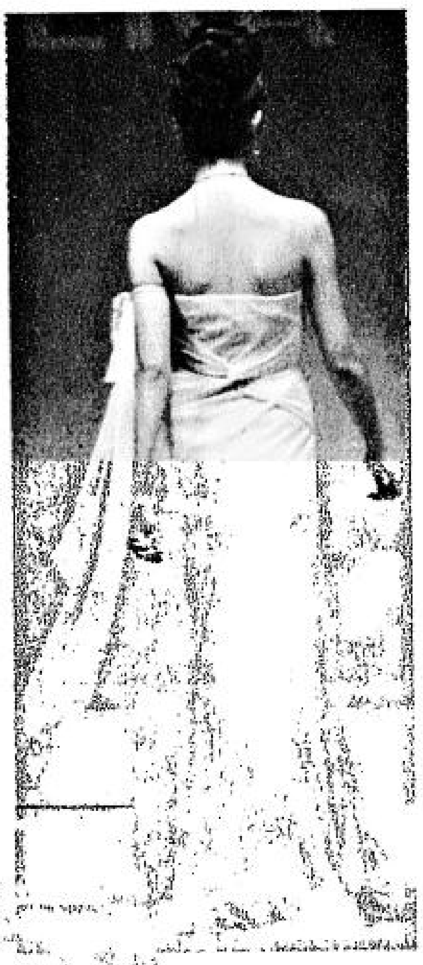
They shouldn't be. In fairness to some of them, their gowns—from the appearance down to the construction—are a tad better and more original than Wang's celebrated creations.

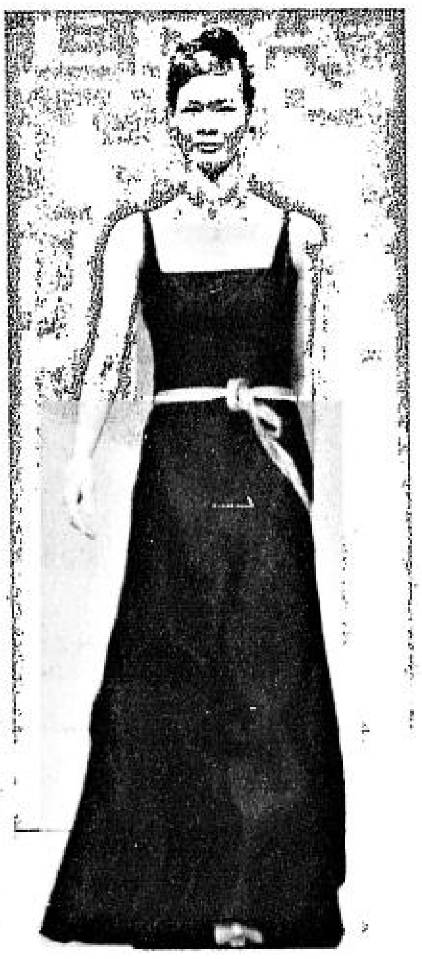
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

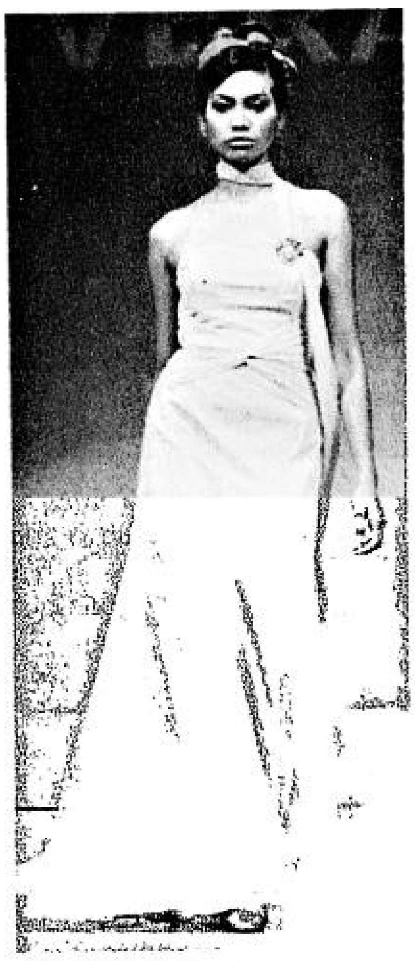

FISHTAIL silhouette


GOWNS are 1950s-lite.


WILLOWY extensions

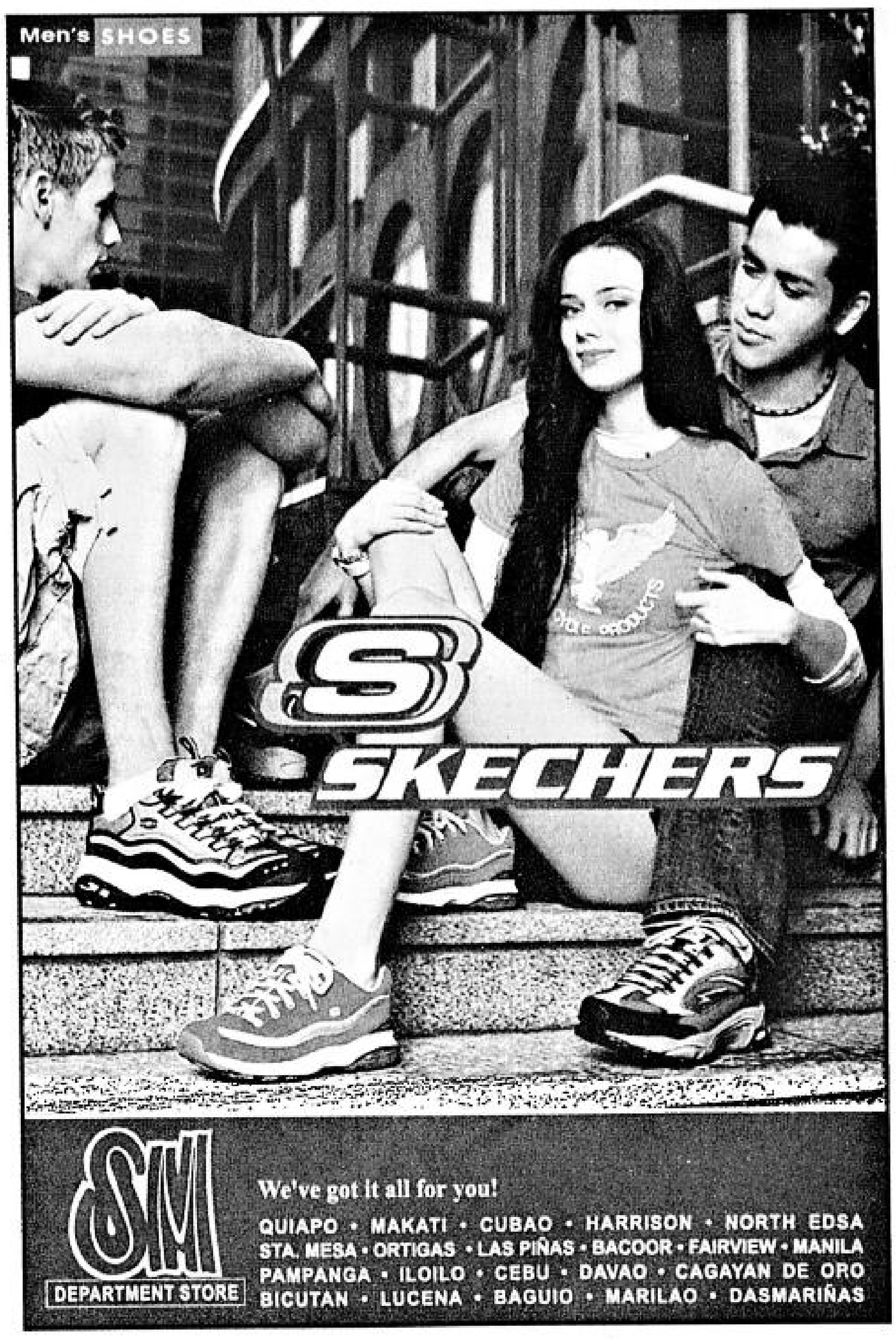

CRISSCROSS draping


SATIN bow


WRAPAROUND beauty

MANILA BEADERS UNITE
The Beaders Link of the Philippines (BLP) is coming out with a book on "who's who" in Manila's beading industry. The book will also contain the most comprehensive beading directory so far. It is another project to raise funds for charitable causes of the BLP, a membership club of beading enthusiasts from various sectors and of different ages. Some members are in the business of selling, while others simply enjoy the craft. The club is spearheaded by design artist Portia Eleene Leuterio, who lines up activities to help raise funds for worthy projects. This September, a group went on a beading tour to Cebu to check out the country's indigenous beading products and materials. The visit was organized by Betsy Quisumbing of Cebu. The group hopes to establish links with Cebu beaders during the visit, as part of a planned exchange and outreach program for community service.

FCCP ANNIVERSARY
The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines is celebrating its silver anniversary with a cocktail reception at the Main Lounge of Manila Polo Club, Makati, 5 p.m., on Sept. 27. In photo are: FCCP past presidents: Nori Onsiako, Letty Syquia, Cez Manalo, Mme. Chito Madrigal Collantes, Nelly Bengzon, Olga Martel and Tessie Luz



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PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO
BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS

37 vie for Bulawan Award

THE ANNUAL Bulawan Awards that recognize Negrense creativity and innovativeness will be handed out on Sept. 30 during the opening of the 17th Negros Trade Fair (NTF) at the Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati.

"Bulawan," Ilonggo for gold, is a product design competition. Now on its 14th year, several recipients of the award have gone on to receive other prestigious recognitions, like those handed out by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

Entries, submitted by members of the Association of Negros Producers, which is also behind the annual trade fair, are divided into six categories. Winners will receive the Bulawan trophy. The NTF, with the theme "Hecho Derecho," will be open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.

GOINGS ON

BOOK LAUNCH. The 2002 NCCA Writer's Grant for Translation, "Love's a Vice (Bisyo ang Pag-ibig)," translations from Filipino to English of 60 Poems of Mike L. Bigornia by Alfred A. Yuson, is now a book and will be launched today, 5:30 p.m., at the Balay Tsanselor, C.P. Garcia Avenue, UP Diliman, QC.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features Jonathan Coo and Najib Ismail tonight at 6.

ANIHAN FESTIVAL. The town of Lobo, Batangas marks its 133rd Foundation Day and Fifth Anihan Festival, Sept. 24-29. Activities include street parade and dance competition, mass wedding, beauty pageant, quiz contest for elementary and high school students, an evening show which features the culture of the country's regional groupings, and a fluvial festival on Lobo Bay. Call 0920-9065421or 0917-5042233.

CONCERT. The Women's Media Circle presents "Hearts on Fire," tonight at 6 at Gota de Leche Complex, 859 SH Loyola St., Sampaloc, Manila. The concert will feature Francis Magalona, Cookie Chua and Color It Red, Bagong Dugo, Makiling Ensemble and 7 Purple Moons.

SEMINAR. Elizabeth Lumawig Heitzmann is conducting another seminar-workshop on butterfly breeding, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., tomorrow at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. Participants will also get their own kits and handouts. Registration is ongoing at the Seedling Bank Butterfly House. Call 9278541.

PROMO. The PBA One on One kick-off event will be held simultaneously at Robinsons Place Manila Padre Faura Atrium and Robinsons Place Cainta Activity Area on Sept. 25-Oct. 3. This will be followed by a series of events at Robinsons Place Novaliches Central Atrium and Robinsons Place Imus Activity Area, Oct. 4-10; Robinsons Place Dasmariñas fountain area and Robinsons Starmills Pampanga Plaza Arayat Atrium, Oct. 11-17; Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa fountain area and Robinsons Metro East fountain area, Oct. 18-24; and Robinsons Place Lipa Activity Area and Robinsons Galleria fountain area, Oct. 25-31. Call 6836100.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park celebrates National Tourism Week on Sept. 26 with Sining Bulacan, Rodel Fronda, Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Troupe of Bulacan State University, Iba High School Dance Troupe and San Pedro High School Dance Troupe.

BAZAAR. The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines will hold its annual pre-Christmas bazaar on Sept. 25-26, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at World Trade Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Admission is free. Call 8173905/ 8170670/ 0920-9044279.

SEMINAR. Richard Field, who holds a master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics, will conduct a seminar-workshop on Effective Hands-on Communications, an Essential Skill for the 21st Century on Sept. 27-28 at the Training Room, LCC Central Mall, Naga City. Call 9279858.

CONCERT. Sulo Hotel's Diwata Lounge presents live music Mondays to Fridays, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. until Oct. 1. Call 9245051 to 71.

SEMINAR. Freeport Institute for Research, Science and Technology will present Work@Play: Developing a Personal Culture of Excellence on Oct. 2 at The Subic Bay Arts Center, SBFZ, Subic, Olongapo City. Call (047)2522602.

COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will offer a basic photo course starting Oct. 3. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

PHOTO CLASSES. Photoworks: Class 13, to be conducted by NYFA and NYIP graduate Leo Castillo, will be held Wednesdays and Mondays, 7-10 p.m., starting Oct. 6 at the DPI Photography Center, Jose Escriva Avenue, Ortigas Center. Call 0917-8985362 or e-mail leo.castillo@gmail.com.

SEMINAR. The Japan Foundation Manila will sponsor a Japanese Language Teachers' Seminar/Workshop on Oct. 8, 5-9 p.m., and Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-12 nn, at Alliance Francaise de Manille, 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8116155 to 58.

ANTIQUE SHOW. Art and antique collectors are invited to the 11th National Arts & Antiques Show, ongoing until Oct. 10 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex.

PROGRAM. The Japan Foundation Manila announces its grant program for intellectual exchange projects. Application is open to universities or research institutions, non-profit organizations, NGOs and international organizations. Deadline for submission is on Oct. 18. Call 8116155.

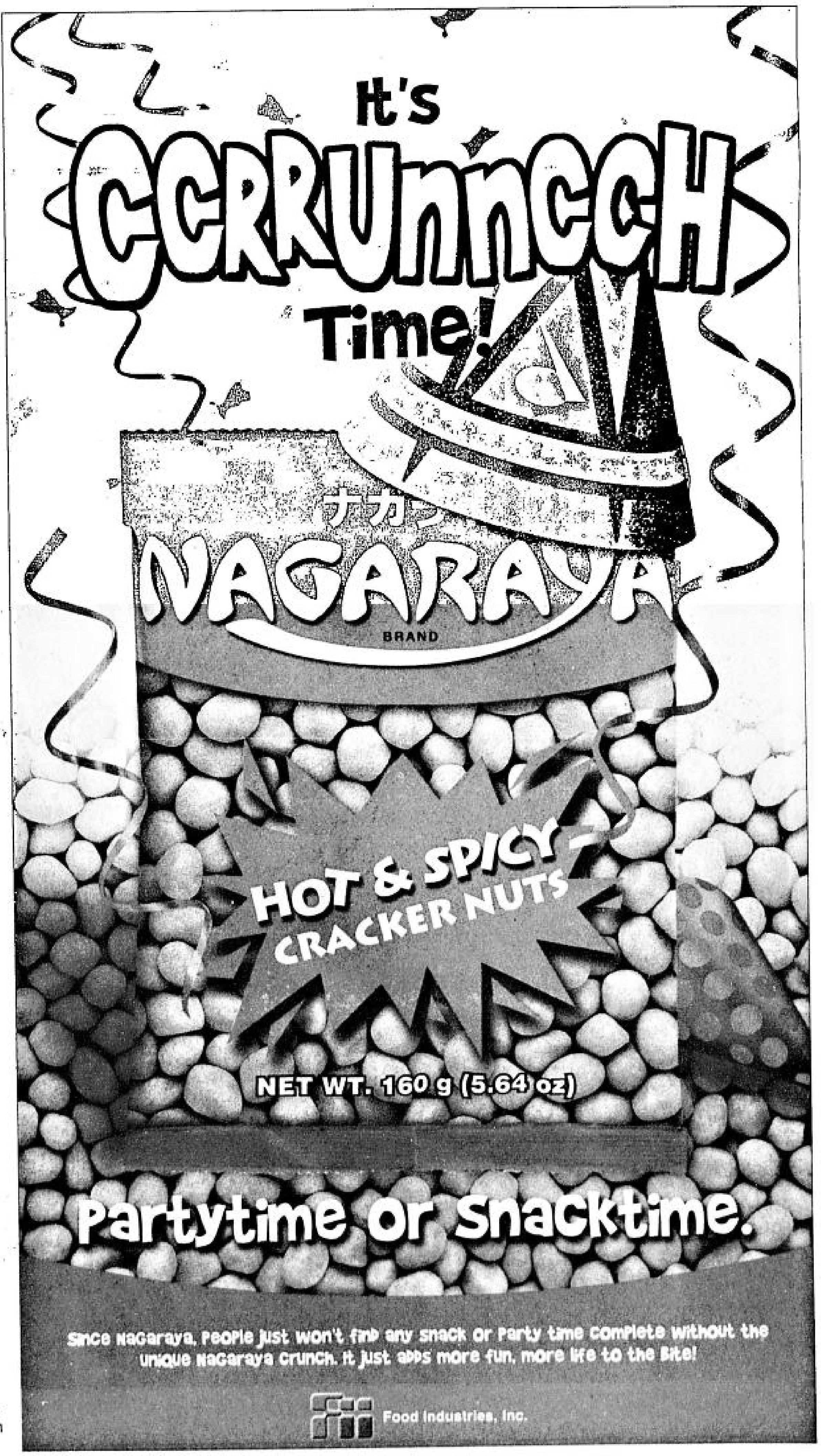
ACTIVITY. It's Spook and Scare time at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and The Brick Road, with registration going on for the unique costume contest, open to those who are 13 to 65 years old. To join, get an entry form at the Ad and Promo Department and attach a P300 single or accumulated purchase receipt from Sta. Lucia East Department Store dated Sept. 1 to Oct. 24. Contest finals is set at The Brick Road on Oct. 29. The trick or treat event is set on Oct. 30. Registration is on Oct. 18-28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 6815401/19 local 109.

CATERING SEMINAR. MB&G/ProActive will hold a seminar-workshop on restaurant management, Oct.13-21 (excluding weekends), 1- 5 p.m. at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 6871787/ 0916-8226053.

EXPO. Build Events Inc. will stage "Metrosexual in the City: The Modern Man" on Oct. 21-23, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at The Eastwood Cybermall, Libis, QC. Call 8925639/ 8934080.

FAIR. Silahis Arts and Artifacts is organizing a Book and Art Fair on Oct. 28-Nov. 3 at Clamshell II, Gen. Luna St. between Anda and Real Sts., Intramuros, Manila. Call 5273842/ 5272113.

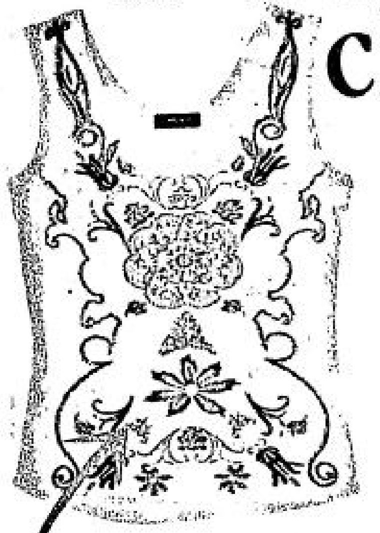
WORKSHOP. The Children's Library will hold a free one-day workshop for public school teacher-librarians on Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galeria, Manila. Call 9353011/ 6337631



Since Nagaraya, people just won't find any snack or party time complete without the unique Nagaraya crunch. It just adds more fun, more life to the Bite!

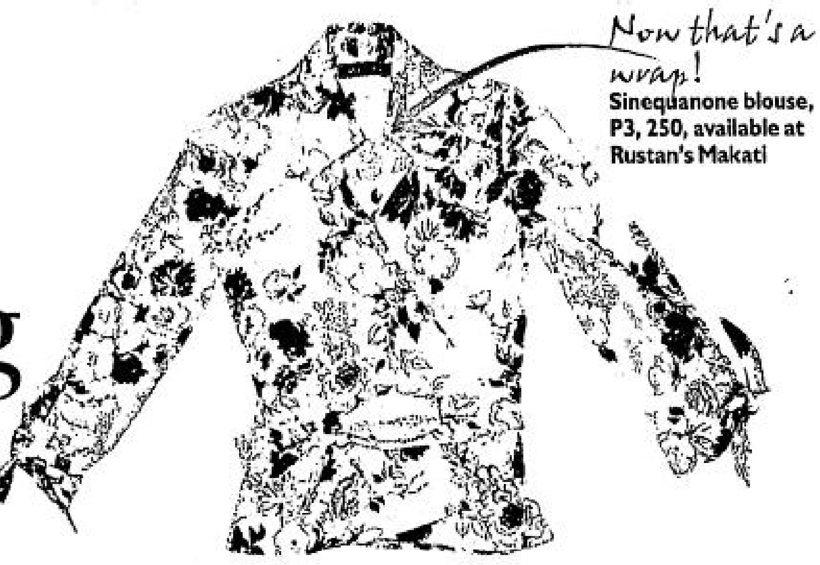
WINDOW SHOPPING

Prints charming



Tee-hee! In pink, printed and with glitter

Sinequanone tank top P1,950, at Rustan's Makati

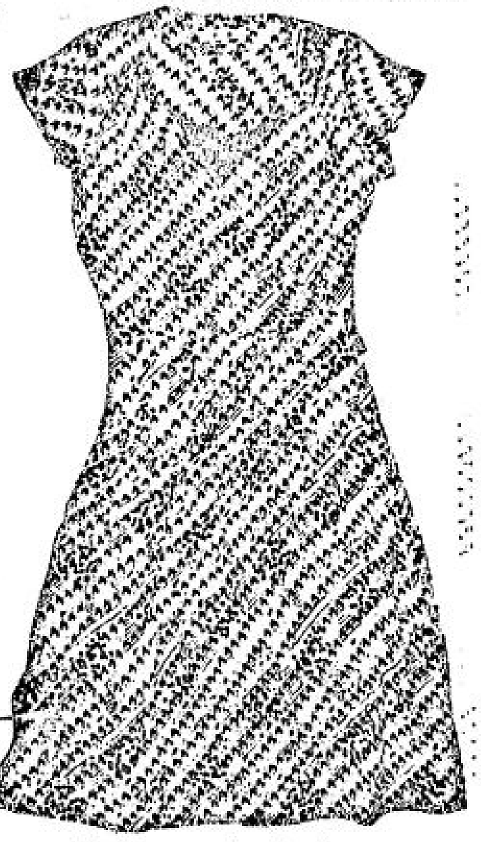


Now that's a wrap!

Sinequanone blouse, P3, 250, available at Rustan's Makati

Text and photos by September Mahino

Whatever your taste may be—floral, paisley, or Rorschach-esque inkblots—wearing prints is a sure way to stave off fashion boredom. Giving character to all kinds of fabric—whisper-light chiffon, ever-dependable cotton and even tough denim—prints create illusions that can make you look wild, quirky and, yes, charming.

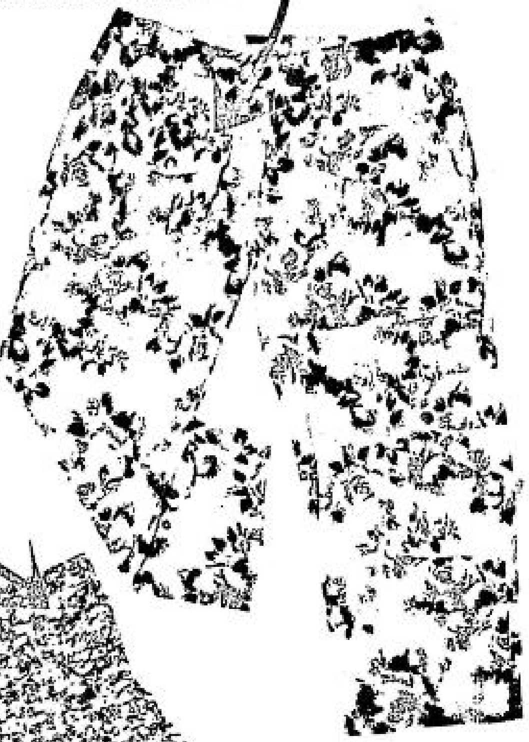


For a flirty day look that spells "lady," the V decolletage spices up the otherwise prim play of colors (wearing something under is optional).

Wrap dress, P3,495
Orange camisole, P945
Available at Topshop, 2/L, Shangri-La Mall

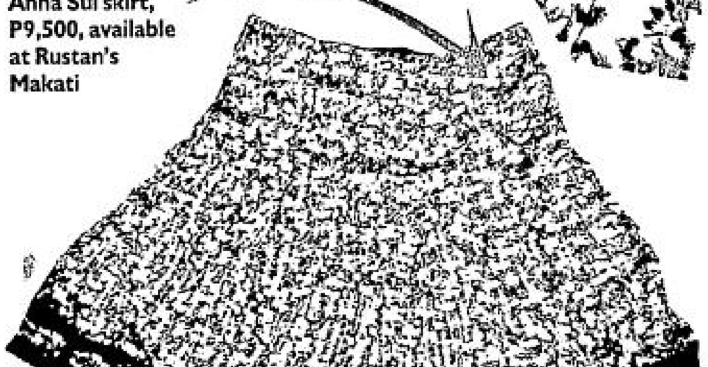
There are certainly no ants in these pants. Just a lot of eye-catching color and design.

Muchacha pants, P4,950, available at Rustan's Makati



The black lace hem gives a hint of naughtiness into this electro-pleated skirt.

Anna Sui skirt, P9,500, available at Rustan's Makati

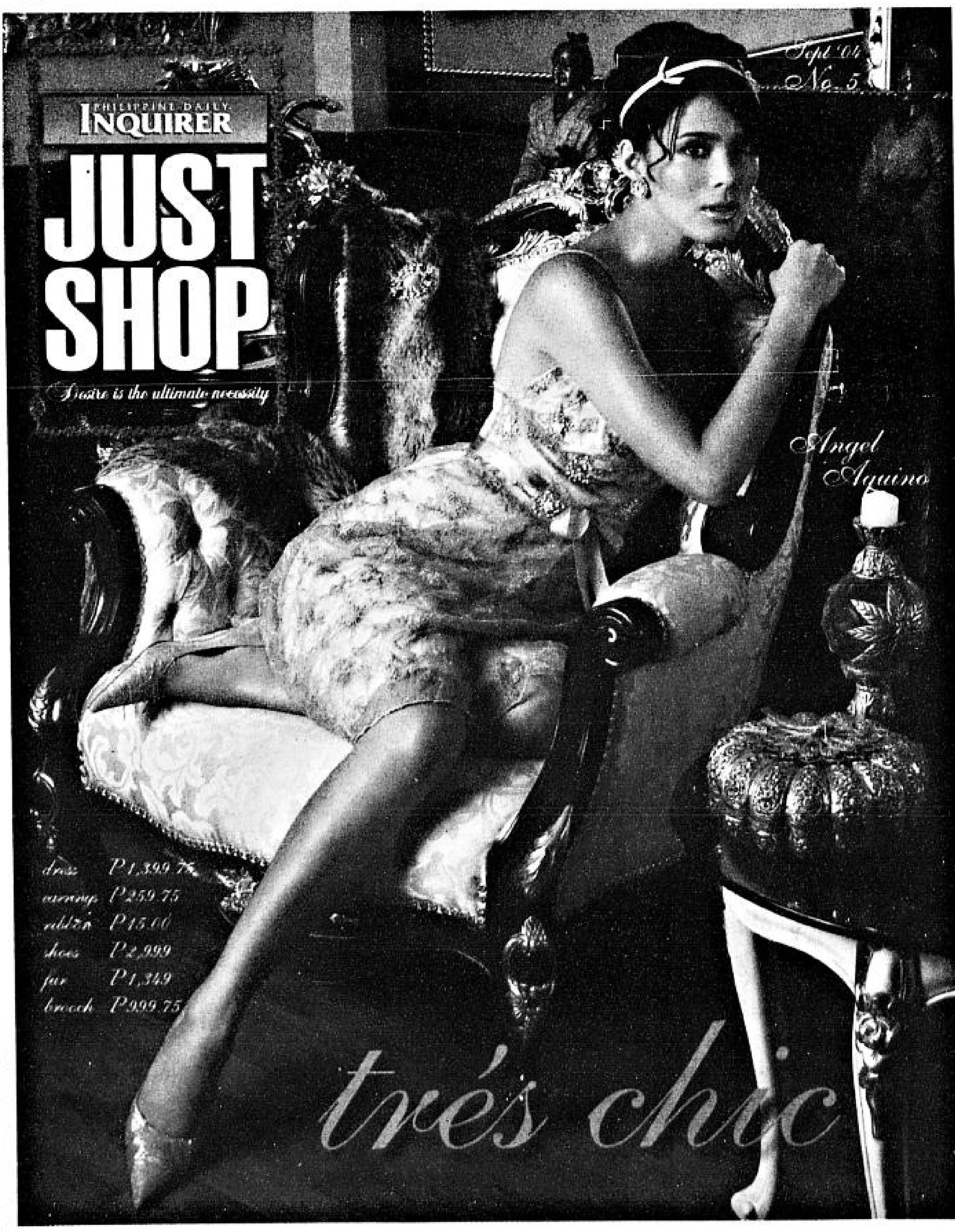


Quirky meets pretty as ferns take over a nice pleated skirt with ribbon detail on the waistband.

Anna Sui skirt, P12,500, available at Rustan's Makati

Take a walk on the wild side with these dressed-up basic black shoes.

Hand-painted leather shoe with ankle strap, P2,945; Hand-painted velvet pump with faux rhinestone detail, P2,945. Both available at Shoe Studio, 2/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati



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to a grand scrimp chic celebration

Trés Chic

on Friday, the 24th of September

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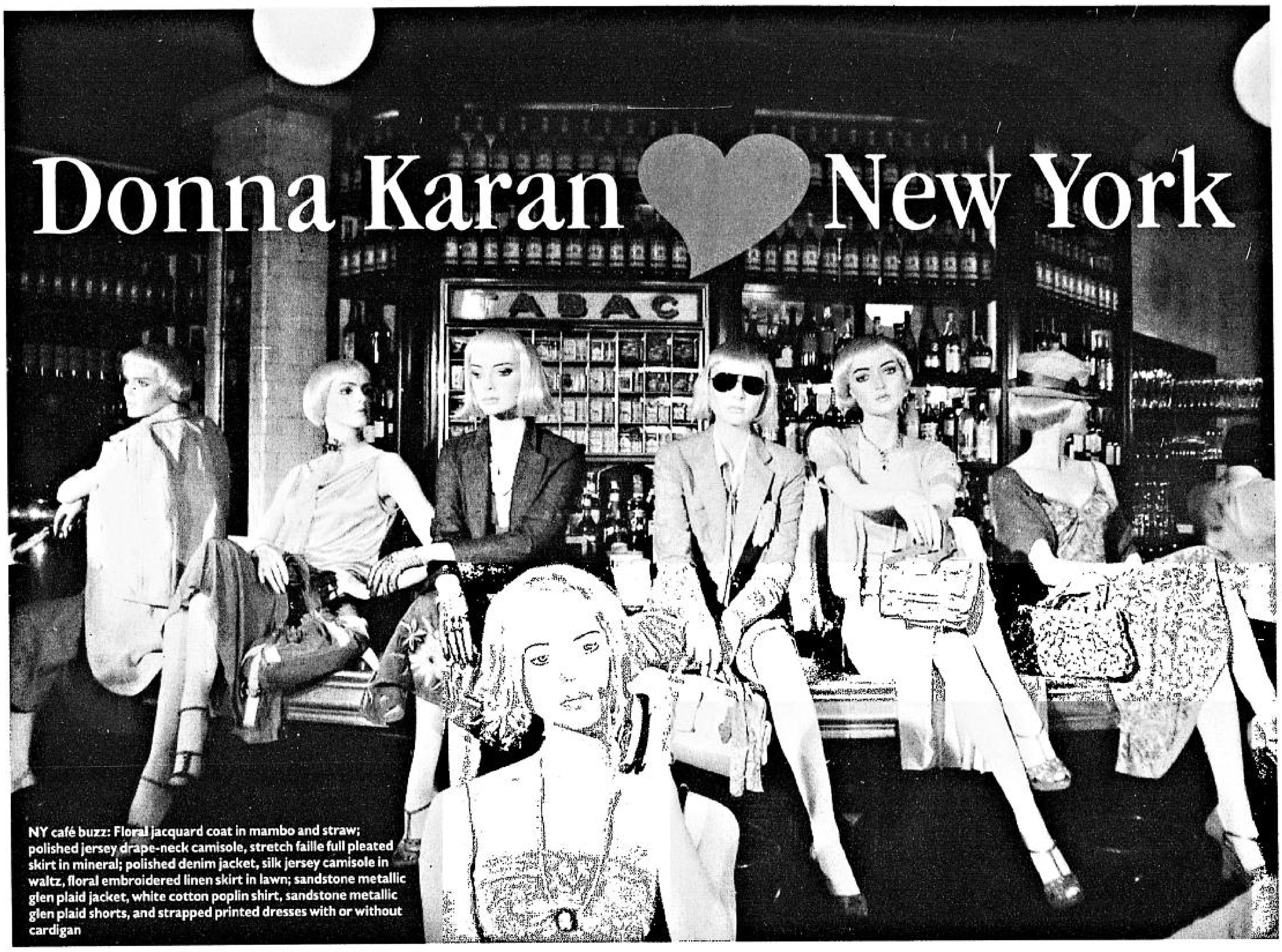
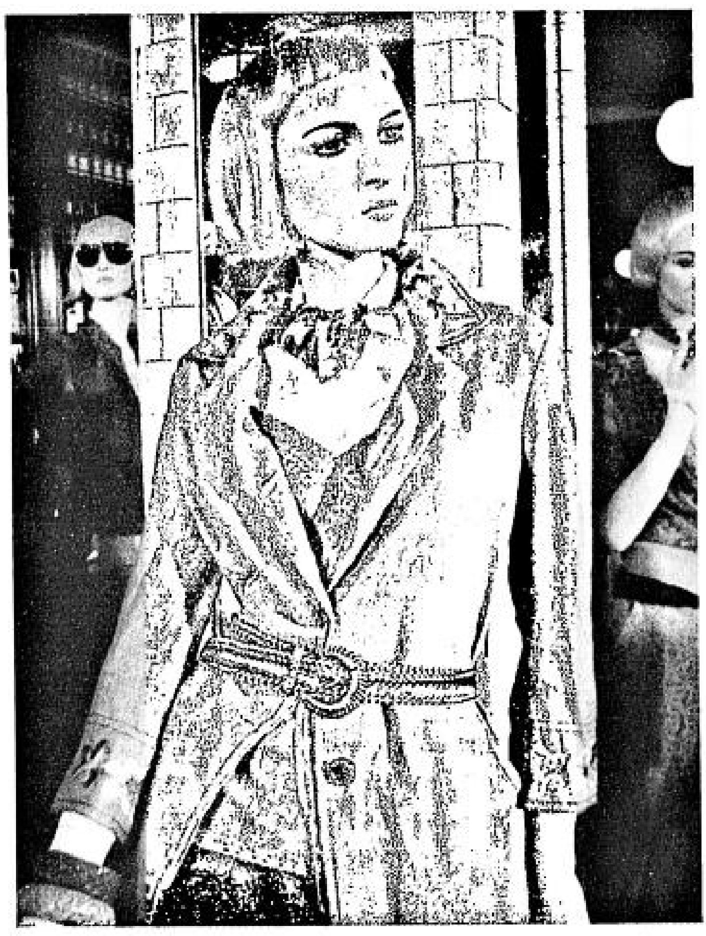
Donna Karan ♥ New York



NY café buzz: Floral jacquard coat in mambo and straw; polished jersey drape-neck camisole, stretch faille full pleated skirt in mineral; polished denim jacket, silk jersey camisole in waltz, floral embroidered linen skirt in lawn; sandstone metallic glen plaid jacket, white cotton poplin shirt, sandstone metallic glen plaid shorts, and strapped printed dresses with or without cardigan



NY in the Spring: Floral embroidered linen coat in caraway, eyelet-trimmed silk satin camisole in lawn, pigment printed linen full skirt in waltz, gold vintage braided belt

URBAN CHIC. Pigment-printed leather jacket in lawn, white V-neck camisole, circle skirt; left, jeweled high-heeled platform

From page C1

do Sunday brunch.

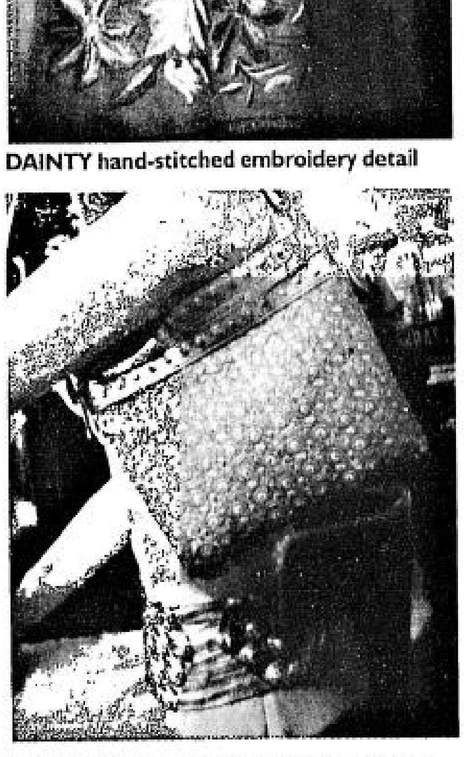
A collection with true New York character, it draws on graphic influences from the street—from subway tile patterns to menswear tailoring and cultural motifs.

DKNY shows us the urban way to suit up with boyish tailored walking shorts, full pleated skirts, beaded cardigans, tailored cropped jackets and crisp linens yet remain feminine through delicate dresses, soft denim, airy, draped tops, and in such details as floral prints and embroidery.

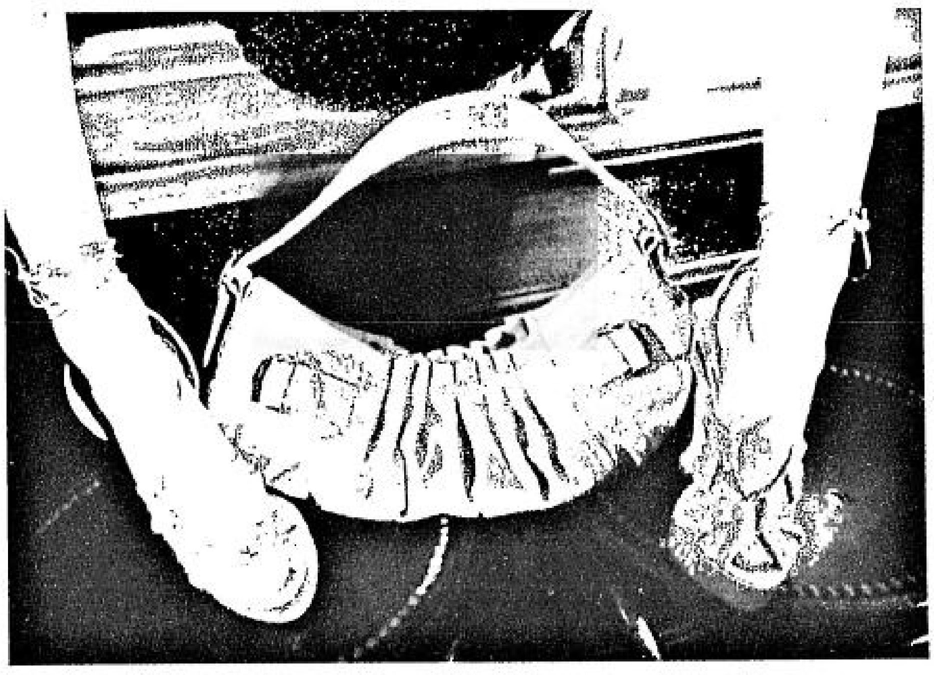
Colors of the season come in playful names like blossom (pink), waltz (purple), lawn (green), straw (off-white) and caraway (beige). DKNY's signature blend of modern, eclectic and bohemian attitude is even evident in the accessories: colorful bags, whimsical brooches, vintage belts, mesh gloves, quirky hats and ties, and high-heeled platforms that are jeweled and textured.

DKNY is distributed by Store Specialists Inc. DKNY stores are located in Greenbelt 4, Rockwell, Rustan's Makati, Shangri-la Mall and Alabang Town Center

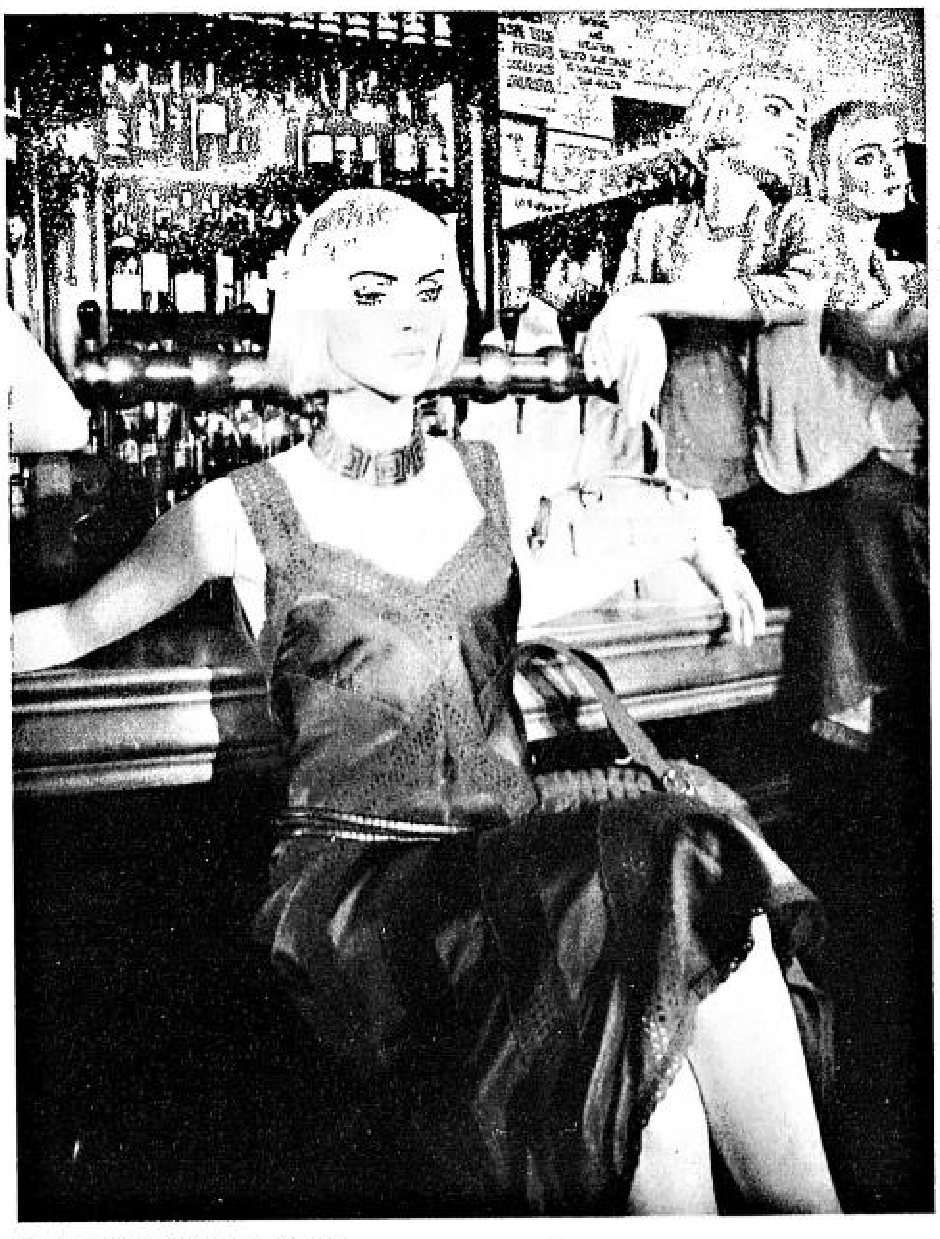
DAINTY hand-stitched embroidery detail



MOSAIC jacquard silver bag against caviar beaded silk georgette halter dress



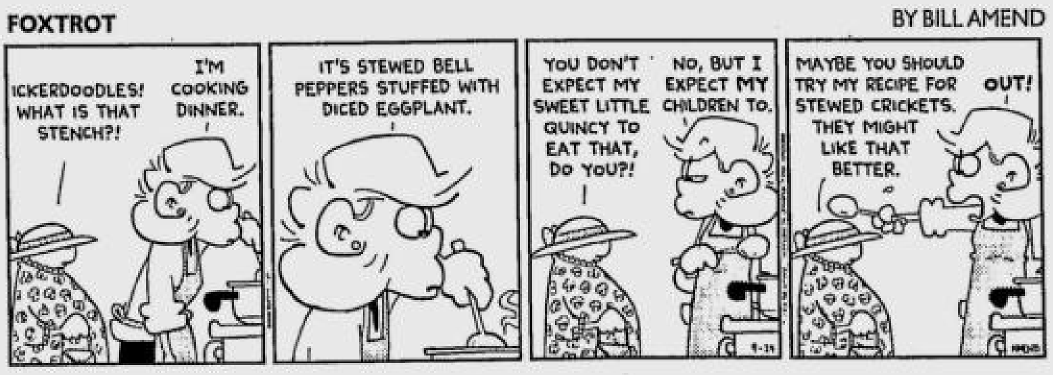
BAGFUL of sunshine: Yellow purse, white high-heeled platforms



EYELET trimmed silk satin dress

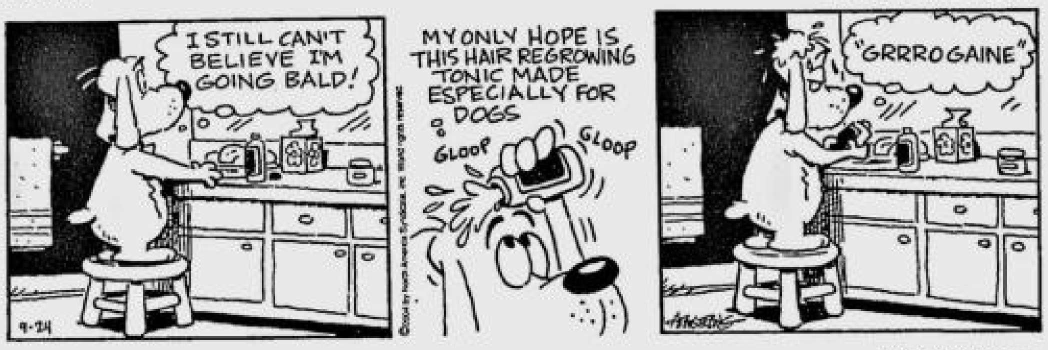
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ICKERDOODLES! WHAT IS THAT STENCH?!
I'M COOKING DINNER.
IT'S STEWED BELL PEPPERS STUFFED WITH DICED EGGPLANT.
YOU DON'T EXPECT MY SWEET LITTLE QUINCY TO EAT THAT, DO YOU?!
NO, BUT I EXPECT MY CHILDREN TO.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY MY RECIPE FOR STEWED CRICKETS. THEY MIGHT LIKE THAT BETTER.
OUT!
9-24

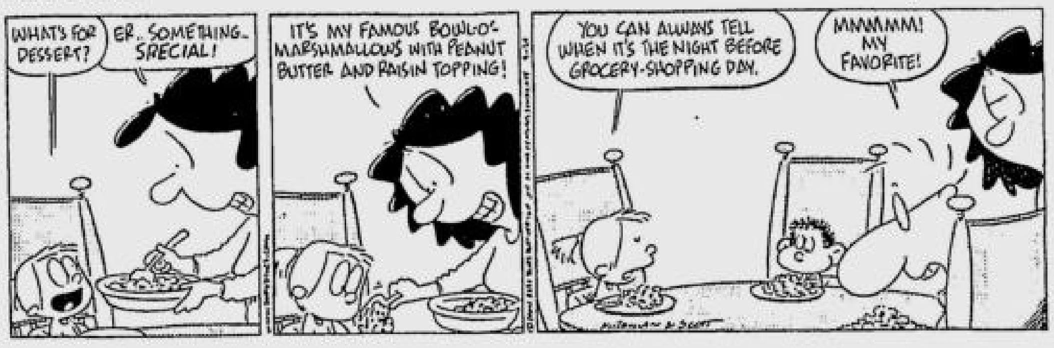
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING BALD!
MY ONLY HOPE IS THIS HAIR REGROWING TONIC MADE ESPECIALLY FOR DOGS
GLOOP
GLOOP
"GRRROGAINE"
9-24

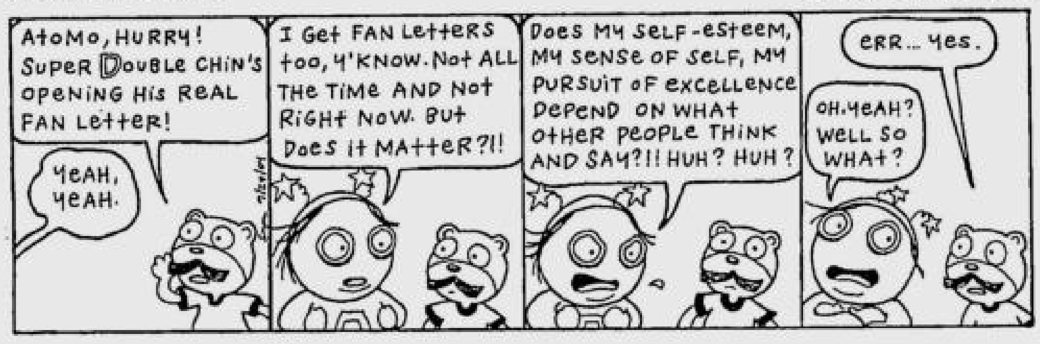
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S FOR DESSERT?
ER.. SOMETHING.. SPECIAL!
IT'S MY FAMOUS BOWL-O-MARSHMALLOWS WITH PEANUT BUTTER AND RAISIN TOPPING!
YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN IT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE GROCERY-SHOPPING DAY.
MMMMMM! MY FAVORITE!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AtoMo, HURRY! Super Double CHIN's opeNiNG His ReAL FAN Letter!
yeAH, yeAH.
I Get FAN Letters too, y'KNOW. Not ALL The TiMe AND Not RiGHt Now. But Does it MAtter?!!
Does My SeLF-esteem, My sense of SeLF, My PURSUIT oF excellence Depend ON WHAt other PeopLe THINK AND SAY?!! HUH? HUH?
err... yes.
OH.yeAH? WeLL So WHAt?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are free-spirited! You love to take something and change it into something else. You also love to travel, both physically or through books and film. Sometimes you're a dreamer; you definitely march to your own drummer. Your imagination is important in your work. An important choice will be presented to you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Kevin Sorbo, actor; Gordon Clapp, actor; Nia Vardalos, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely, creative and romantic day for you. Use your talents to express yourself through body, mind and feelings. You have very strong emotions today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to patch up differences with family members. You can also make improvements to where you live. It's an excellent day for real estate deals.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Whatever you write or produce today will reveal a deep, emotional intensity. You feel very strongly about issues . You might want to tell someone that you care for him or her.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to do something useful with your money . You want to buy something beautiful or make something look more handsome or improved in some way.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel your love for someone quite strongly today. You're not just thinking about it; you want to show it in some way. Follow the instincts of your heart!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're capable of profound and useful psychological insights today. You might learn something new about yourself, or you might learn something new about someone else. Observe your reactions to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You could join forces with someone today to make improvements somewhere around you. These could be physical improvements to your surroundings or improvements to relationships with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Others see you in very pleasing terms today. You appear confident, compassionate, attractive and definitely capable. People are impressed by you!

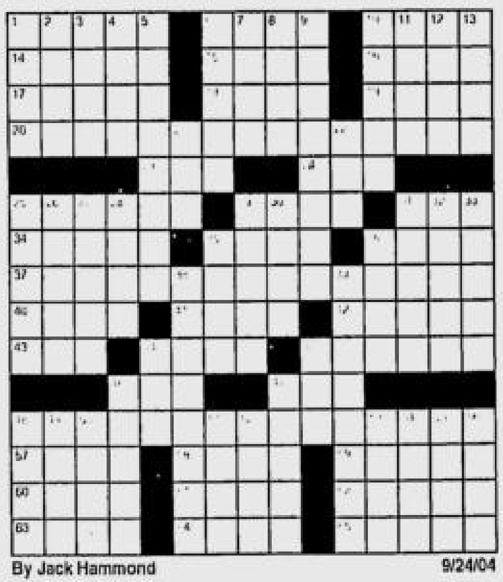
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might make some kind of intellectual breakthrough today because you suddenly have a deeper understanding of something religious, philosophical or spiritual. It helps you appreciate others better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone might give you something valuable today or help you fix or restore something. Accept this offer of help. You won't regret it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel strong feelings for partners or close friends today. You appreciate how important these people are in your life. If you want to tell them this, do so.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel drawn to somebody as if by magic. This could be because the other person seems to represent something in you that needs to be expressed outwardly.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA

9/24/04

ACROSS
1 Compete in a bee
6 Resting on
10 Gershwin and Levin
14 Eagle's abode
15 Traditional tales
16 Noble address
17 TV teaser
18 Dutch South African
19 Macbeth's dagger
20 Mary Poppins' additive
23 Upper limb
24 Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.
25 Ravel piece
29 Web page file letters
31 One NCO
34 Turn topsy-turvy
35 Faultless
36 Roman way
37 Intense treatment
40 Tramped
41 Scruff
42 Casaba, e.g.
43 For example
44 Fast jets: abbr.
45 Move farther apart
46 Now I get it!
47 "__ to Joy"
48 Part of a panacea's claim
57 Saint's glow
58 Medical suffix
59 Ducks' relatives
60 Mesabi Range output
61 Declaim loudly
62 Bordered
63 Sneaky guy
64 A few laughs
65 Mrs. Gorbachev

DOWN
1 Suckers
2 Felon, to a cop
3 Switch ending?
4 Ritzy wheels
5 Fibonacci or Frescobaldi
6 Photo collection
7 Implement
8 Nabisco cookie
9 Scented
10 Subject of discussion
11 Circle
12 Type of rug or code
13 Crystal-gazer
21 To and __
22 Actor Mineo
25 Chests
26 "The Medium" or "The Bat"
27 "Bad, Bad __ Brown"
28 Novelist Bagnold
29 Mounds
30 Ash or apple
31 Subway gate
32 Type of salami
33 Prevailing force
35 H.S. jr.'s exam
36 Champagne bucket
38 Distasteful
39 Rotor blade
44 That ship
45 Star Wars letters
46 Make amends
47 Tobacco kilns
48 Lash lead-in
49 Loser to the tortoise
50 Plenty
51 Jacob's brother
52 Skating place
53 Pop or jerk preceder
54 Oft-quoted Berra
55 Change for a five
56 Govt. farm grp.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	G		N	A	I	L		A	L	A	R	M
R	U	N	E		I	N	F	O		C	A	N	O	E
A	B	U	N	C	H	O	F	P	E	T	C	A	T	S
S	A	M	O	A			Y	E	A			R	C	A
		B	A	L	I	N		S	T	R	U	M		
O	L	L		K	O	O	K		S	O	N	A	T	A
M	I	R	A		U	N	A	U		A	R	D	O	R
A	C	O	R	P	S	O	F	S	I	M	I	A	N	S
H	I	F	I	S		S	K	I	T		G	O	G	O
A	T	B	E	S	T		A	N	E	W		F	A	N
		U	L	T	R	A		G	R	A	I	G		
E	A	H			A	B	A			L	O	E	S	S
A	G	R	O	U	P	O	F	K	I	T	T	E	N	S
C	R	O	A	K		V	A	I	N		A	S	A	T
H	A	S	T	E		E	R	N	S		S	E	P	S

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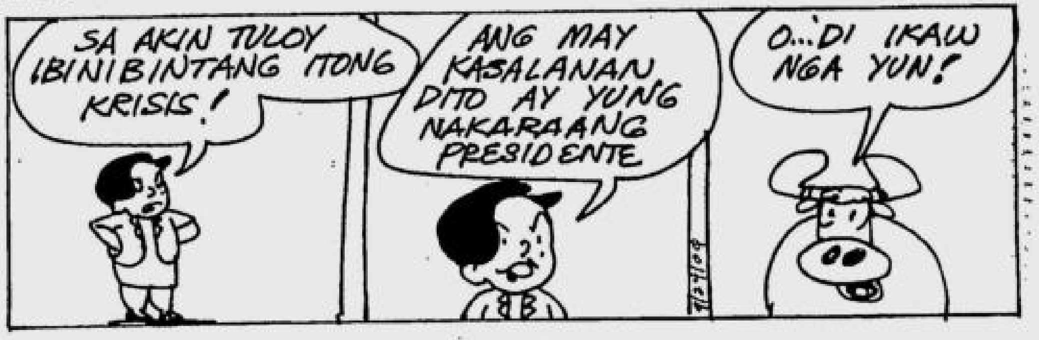
9/24/04

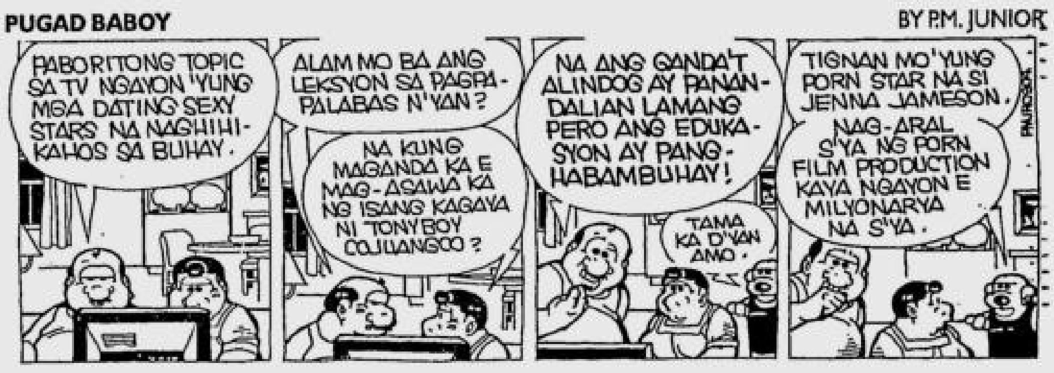
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SA AKIN TULOY IBINIBINTANG ITONG KRISIS!
ANG MAY KASALANAN DITO AY YUNG NAKARAANG PRESIDENTE
O...DI IKAW NGA YUN!

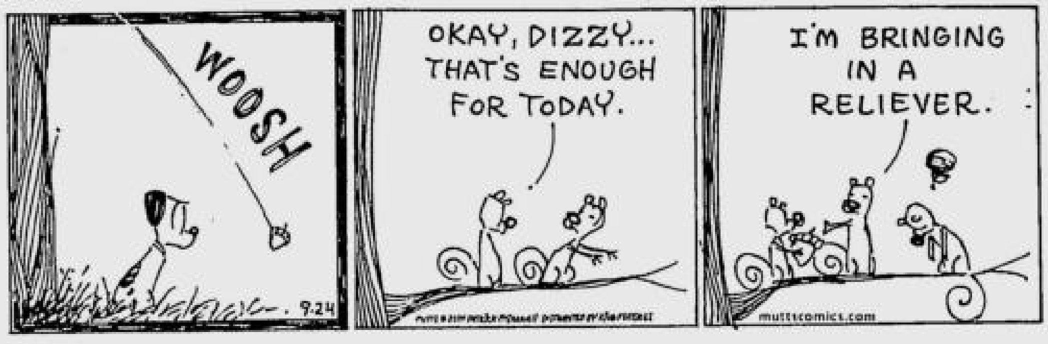
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PABORITONG TOPIC SA TV NGAYON 'YUNG MGA DATING SEXY STARS NA NAGHIHIKAHOS SA BUHAY.
ALAM MO BA ANG LEKSYON SA PAGPAPALABAS N'YAN?
NA KUNG MAGANDA KA E MAG-ASAWA KA NG ISANG KAGAYA NI TONYBOY COJUANGCO?
NA ANG GANDA'T ALINDOG AY PANANDALIAN LAMANG PERO ANG EDUKASYON AY PANGHABAMBUHAY!
TAMA KA D'YAN AMO.
TIGNAN MO 'YUNG PORN STAR NA SI JENNA JAMESON.
NAG-ARAL S'YA NG PORN FILM PRODUCTION KAYA NGAYON E MILYONARYA NA S'YA.

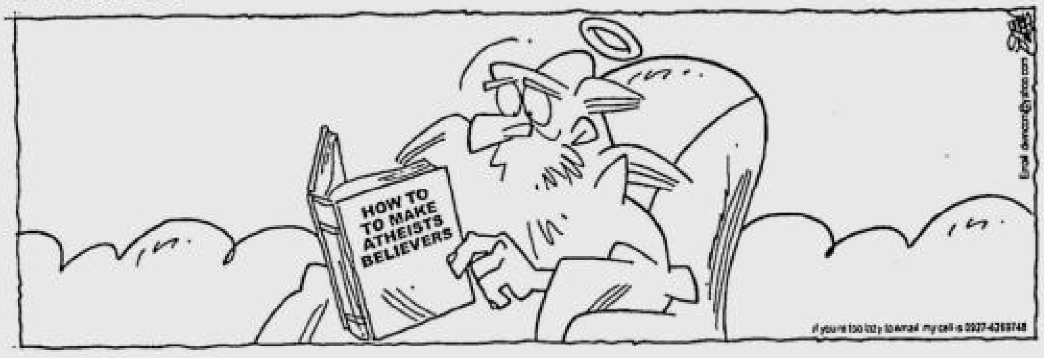
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOOSH
9.24
OKAY, DIZZY... THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
I'M BRINGING IN A RELIEVER.
muttscomics.com

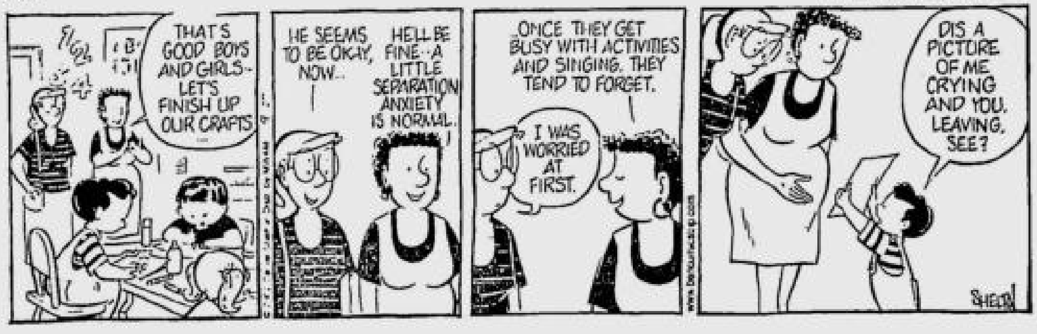
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HOW TO TO MAKE ATHEISTS BELIEVERS

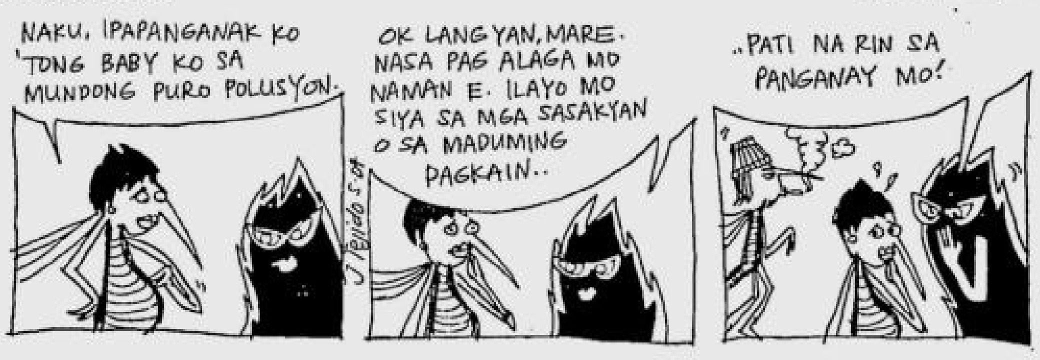
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THAT'S GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS - LET'S FINISH UP OUR CRAFTS
HE SEEMS TO BE OKAY, NOW..
HE'LL BE FINE - A LITTLE SEPARATION ANXIETY IS NORMAL.
ONCE THEY GET BUSY WITH ACTIVITIES AND SINGING, THEY TEND TO FORGET.
I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST.
DIS A PICTURE OF ME CRYING AND YOU. LEAVING. SEE?

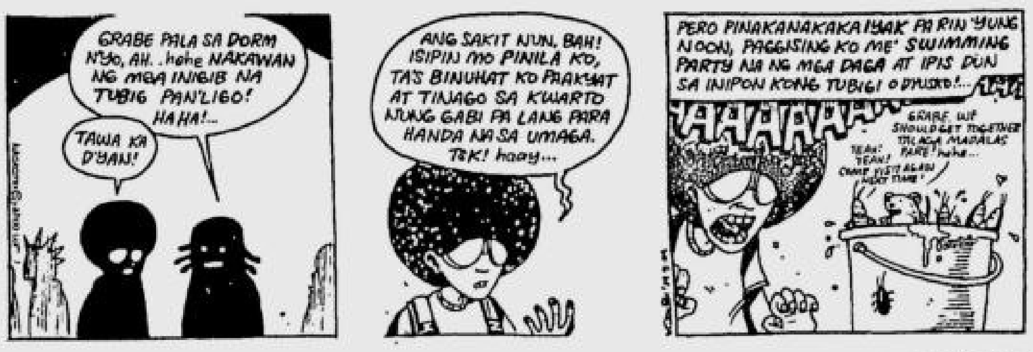
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, IPAPANGANAK KO 'TONG BABY KO SA MUNDONG PURO POLUSYON.
OK LANG YAN, MARE. NASA PAG ALAGA MO NAMAN E. ILAYO MO SIYA SA MGA SASAKYAN O SA MADUMING PAGKAIN..
..PATI NA RIN SA PANGANAY MO!

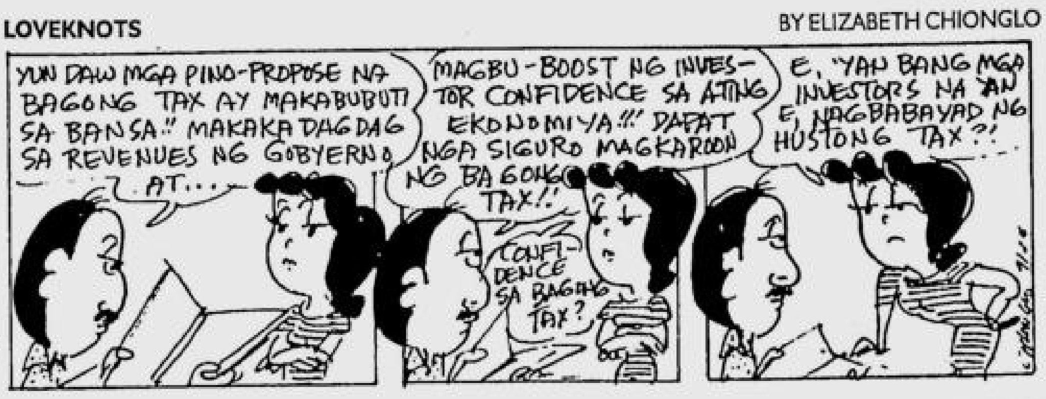
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE PALA SA DORM N'YO, AH. .hehe NAKAWAN NG MGA INIGIB NA TUBIG PAN'LIGO! HAHA!..
TAWA KA D'YAN!
ANG SAKIT NUN, BAH! ISIPIN MO PINILA KO, TA'S BINUHAT KO PAAKYAT AT TINAGO SA KWARTO NUNG GABI PA LANG PARA HANDA NA SA UMAGA. TSK! haay...
PERO PINAKANAKAKAIYAK PA RIN 'YUNG NOON, PAGGISING KO ME' SWIMMING PARTY NA NG MGA DAGA AT IPIS DUN SA INIPON KONG TUBIG! O DYUSKO!..
AAAAAAA!
GRABE, WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER TIL MGA MADALAS PARE! hehe...
YEAH! YEAH!

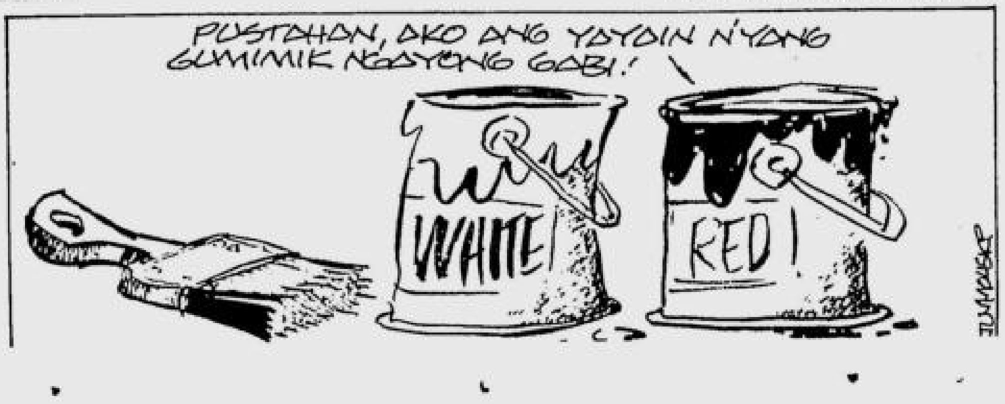
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


YUN DAW MGA PINO-PROPOSE NA BAGONG TAX AY MAKABUBUTI SA BANSA!" MAKAKADAGDAG SA REVENUES NG GOBYERNO AT...
MAGBU-BOOST NG INVESTOR CONFIDENCE SA ATING EKONOMIYA!!" DAPAT NGA SIGURO MAGKAROON NG BAGONG TAX!
CONFIDENCE SA BAGONG TAX?
E, 'YAN BANG MGA INVESTORS NA 'AN E, NAGBABAYAD NG HUSTONG TAX?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PUSTAHAN, AKO ANG YAYAIN N'YONG GUMIMIK NGAYONG GABI!
WHITE
RED

REBEL HAUTEUR. Close-fitting and rounded lenses characterize the new collection of Miss Sixty glasses.

Glamour with a touch of fun

THE MISS Sixty glasses collection has glamour and a touch of fun.

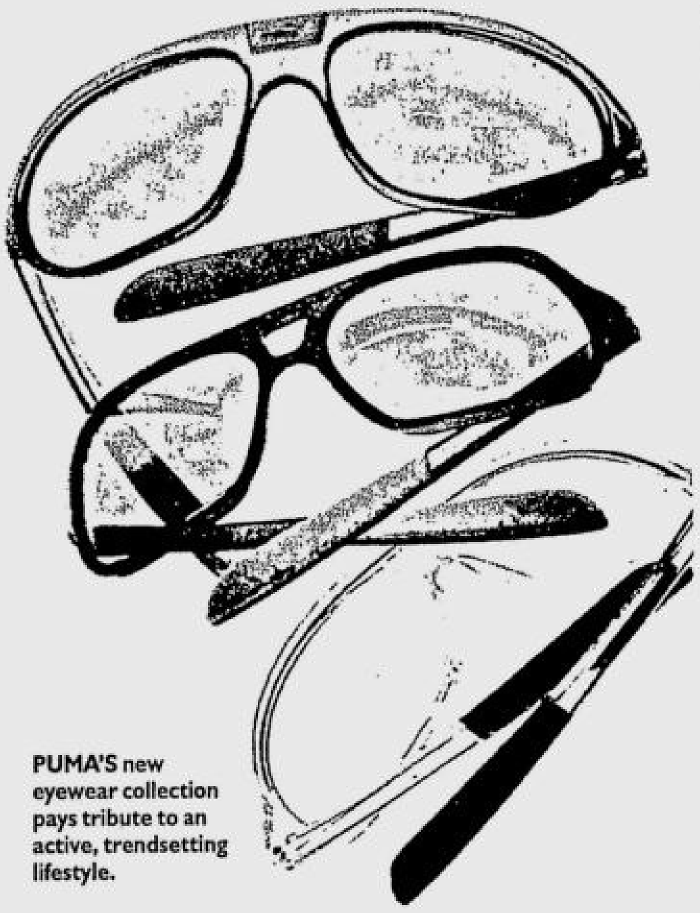
Nearly all models have close-fitting and rounded lenses to meet the ever changing needs of Miss Sixty women. The first collection is reminiscent of St. Tropez in the '50s. Colors are black, blue, claret with gloss and metallic finish sand, including dark and sometimes mirrored lenses in a frame.

The more stylish and futuristic '60s-inspired pieces have rounded frames and are available in gloss or patent-finish colors.

The '70s line has large squared frames in transparent injection-molded plastic and dark while the '80s mean slim and light metal frames supporting very dark lenses.

Miss Sixty glasses are for young women who enjoy freedom of expression through their accessories.

Eyewear that combines sports and fashion



PUMA'S new eyewear collection pays tribute to an active, trendsetting lifestyle.

PUMA has shifted from hardcore sports to a combination of sports, fashion and lifestyle.

This change is manifested in the Puma Sun and Optical collection, which combine Puma's revolutionary quality and its out-of the box designs which target mainly the sporty and trendsetting urban adults.

The Puma sunglasses are inspired by Euro Mod styling. The colors are coordinated with the clothing collection. The sun lenses are equipped with AR quality or anti-reflective and hydro-repellent coatings. The line contains five sub-collections, geared for sports/lifestyle, performance sports, motor sports, fashion and retro looks.

The Puma Optical Frames are made with innovative materials that include zyl, grilamid/ rubber, monel, aluminum, stainless steel and block titanium. The glasses have rubberized temples and rubber temple tips.

SUNGLASSES are inspired by Euro Mod styling. The colors are coordinated with the clothing collection.

A jewel of a festival

SINGAPORE promises a bigger and more dazzling JewelFest 2004, the only consumer jewelry festival in Asia, on Oct. 1-31. Supported by the Singapore Tourism Board, the Singapore JewelFest 2004 aims to strengthen the city state's claim to be Asia's shopping capital.

The festival will be launched Sept. 30 at the Jewel Pavilion in Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza.

It will showcase the latest and widest range of jewelry designs in Singapore for the first time.

Jewelry shoppers will go on different "Flights of Desire," Oct. 1-24, when top Singapore couture and chain jewelers present their innovative creations. Designers from Italian jewelry houses will make special appearances.

Main highlights are the Couture Splendor Jewel Pavilion (Oct. 1-6) and the Urban Chic Jewel Pavilion (Oct. 8-17), where visitors will see spectacular display of signature jewelry creations inspired by the world's cosmopolitan cities and runway shows presented by leading Singapore chain jewelers.

Throughout the month, participating jewelers will be offering very special promotions in more than 100 stores. Foreign visitors can win one of three lucky draw prizes of a return trip for two to the Singapore JewelFest 2005, with every S$500 purchase at any participating jeweler.

MELANIE Productions presents

retaso

A dinner fashion show featuring an eclectic mix of collections from the sensual to innovative by Manila's premiere designers and Philippine delegates to the prestigious fashion design competition in Paris like **Avel Bacudio, Alex Pigao James Reyes, Popoy Barba, & Pablo Mendez.** Designers par excellance **Bong Lazo, Loyola Ignacio Armhand Remojo, Frederick Alba, & Gener Gozum** will also present their collections. **Retaso fashion gala** will be held on **September 25, 2004; 7 p.m.** at the **Centennial Ballroom** of the **Manila Hotel,** for the benefit of **CHILDHOPE FOUNDATION** on behalf of the Street Children and the Prayer Convent of Saint Anthony de Padua in Tagaytay City.

Presented by

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• **Mirror Magazine**
• **dzRB AM** 'Radyo ng Bayan Punto Perfecto'

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a culinary celebration for the environment

September 2 to 30, 2004 • Greenbelt 2 & 3, Makati City

For the whole month of September, Greenbelt 2 & 3's finest restaurants and bars will showcase culinary masterpieces especially made to celebrate a vision for a living planet. Come sit down to this month-long feast and help WWF, the global conservation organization, find better ways for Filipinos to live in harmony with the environment.

Dig in to the dishes and delight your senses in this unique festival. Plus, get a chance to win exciting prizes in a special raffle!*

List of Participating Restaurants

Greenbelt 2: Bizu Patisserie • Cena • Italianni's • Kai • Masas • Pepato • Segafredo • Sugi • Temple Bar and Restaurant • Una Mas • Uva

Greenbelt 3: Absinth • Casa Armas • Chimara • Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Dome • DiMark's • Figaro Coffee Shop • Gaudi Bar Restaurante • Haagen Dazs • Kitchen • Max Brenner • Merck's Entertainment and Bistro • MyLK • Red Box Karaoke • San Marzano • Seafood Club by Red Crab • Starbucks • The Good Earth Tea Room • Tavern on the Square

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Promo period: September 2-30, 2004.
Grand Draw: October 4, 2004.
*See leaflets for complete details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1- 519 Series of 2004.

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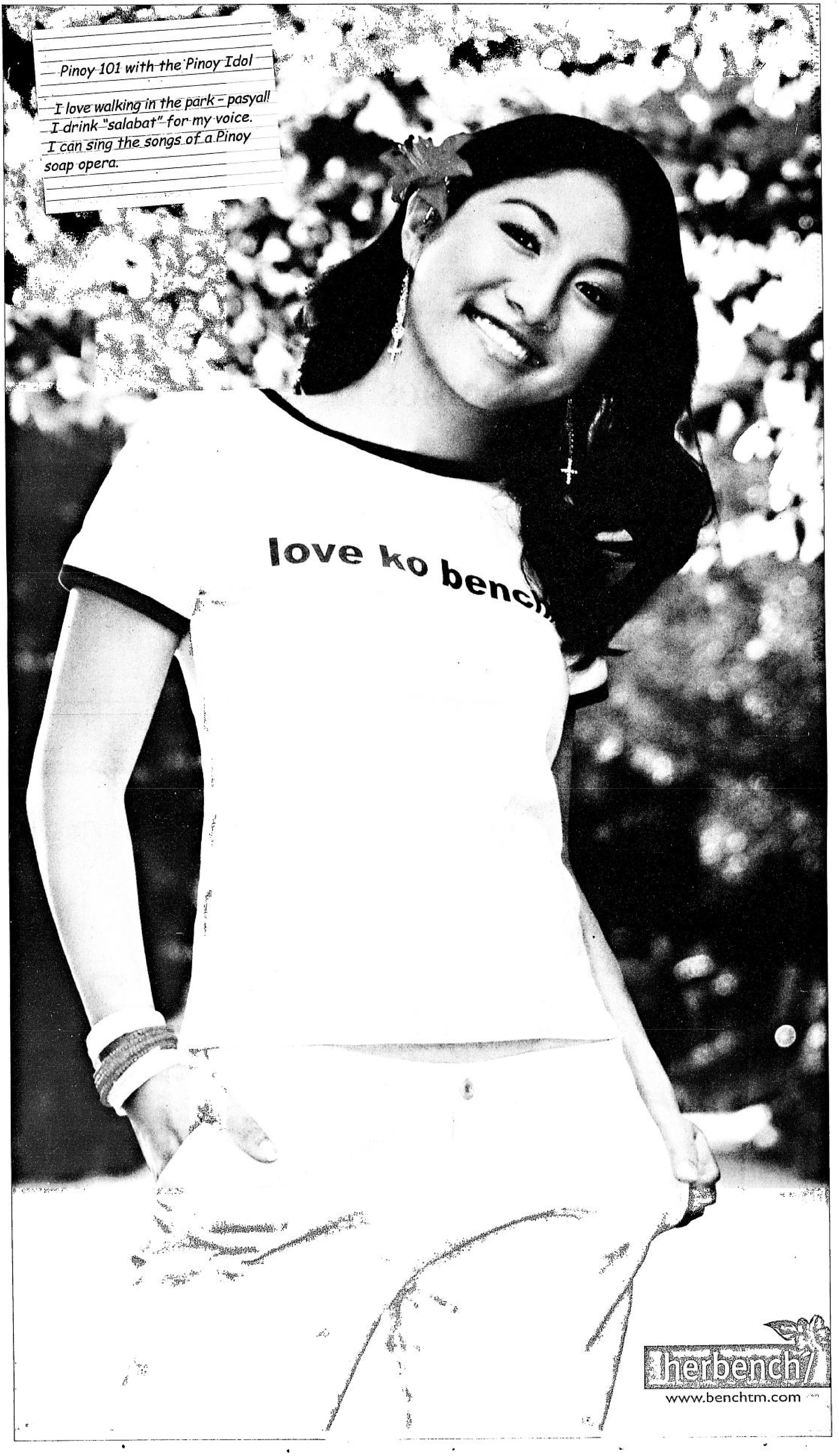

Pinoy 101 with the Pinoy Idol

I love walking in the park - pasyal!
I drink "salabat" for my voice.
I can sing the songs of a Pinoy
soap opera.

love ko bench
herbench
www.benchtm.com

LIFESTYLE
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
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SERENA Williams

Serena's denim or Sharapova's tank dress?

Style-watching on the international tennis court has never been this good

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

RECENTLY, for several nights, I would sleep with one eye open and awake to Agassi, Roddick or whoever was kicking butt in court.

It was the US Open, the last season of the year when tennis fanatics forego sleep and gladly wear eyebags just to watch their post-modern-day gladiators slug it out.

Of course, the finals were a dud, compared to the cliff-hanger semis and quarters, but still the action was irresistible on and also off court. The latter was thanks to Serena Williams, who believes she should be winning in fashion design as well.

Style-watching on the tennis circuit has never been better. I've always been partial to Wimbledon's all-white, and like many traditionalists, I've always believed that there's nothing like white in tennis.

But then after the Williams sisters, the Russians invaded—the long-legged, long-torsoed, long-tressed beauties on the court who are fashion ramp material as well. I don't mean Kournikova, for unlike the men, I'm not into Anna Kournikova (I don't even care to spell her name right). I mean Maria Sharapova and her kind.

But before we go to Maria, let's follow the pecking order. The Williams first.

Serena certainly knew how to serve up a heavy dose of style. She wore Nike's stud-trimmed denim tank top and pleated skirt, knee-high black patent leather warm-up boots. It was glorious denim most of the time—admittedly the first time denim had a romp on the tennis court.

And then she lost.

Her sister Venus stuck to her Reebok endorsement (the biggest sports fashion deal ever, if I remember right), which I learned, no longer holds but she still wears nonetheless. Her Reebok tank dress, preferably in pink, looked all right except that she kept on tugging at the décolletage every time she'd serve that you wondered if it was uncomfortable.

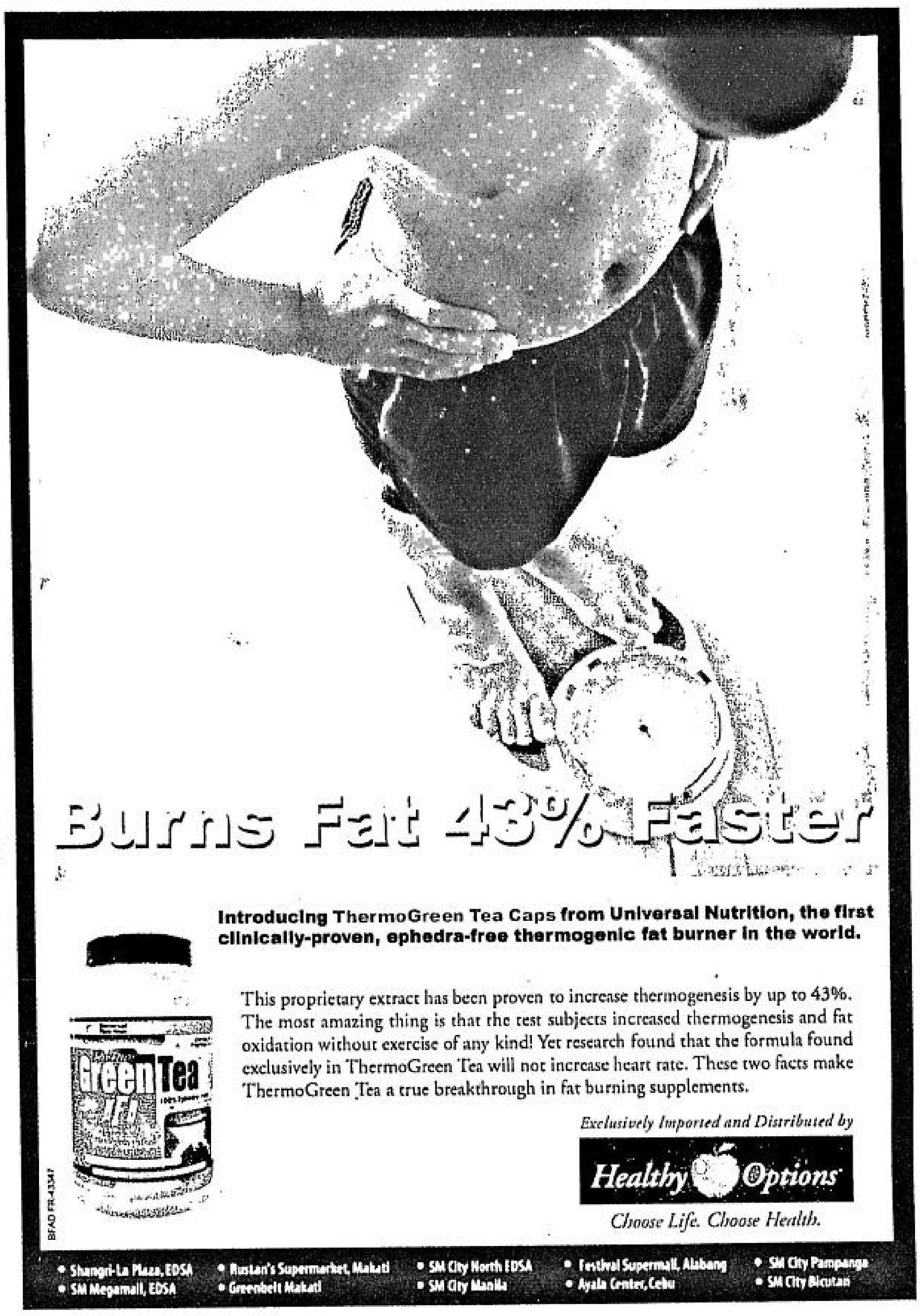
Justine Henin-Hardenne (she lost—what's the world coming to?) had her Adidas polo shirt and skirt with its trademark aqua stripes.

Jennifer Capriati, for her part, was in pink Fila—and, in her match against Serena, wore a bit of makeup.

While I love Serena's superhuman tennis, I'm not sure I love the way she dresses on and off court. Too frilly for tennis.

In my mind, tennis fashion already had had its revolution for the century, and it was done

SERENA'S/ D3



Introducing ThermoGreen Tea Caps from Universal Nutrition, the first clinically-proven, ephedra-free thermogenic fat burner in the world.

This proprietary extract has been proven to increase thermogenesis by up to 43%. The most amazing thing is that the test subjects increased thermogenesis and fat oxidation without exercise of any kind! Yet research found that the formula found exclusively in ThermoGreen Tea will not increase heart rate. These two facts make ThermoGreen Tea a true breakthrough in fat burning supplements.

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- SM City Pampanga
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For Spotless and Blemish-Free Skin

A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

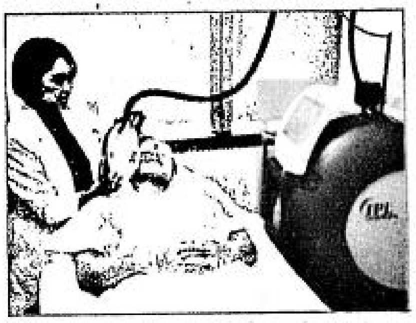
Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional


Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

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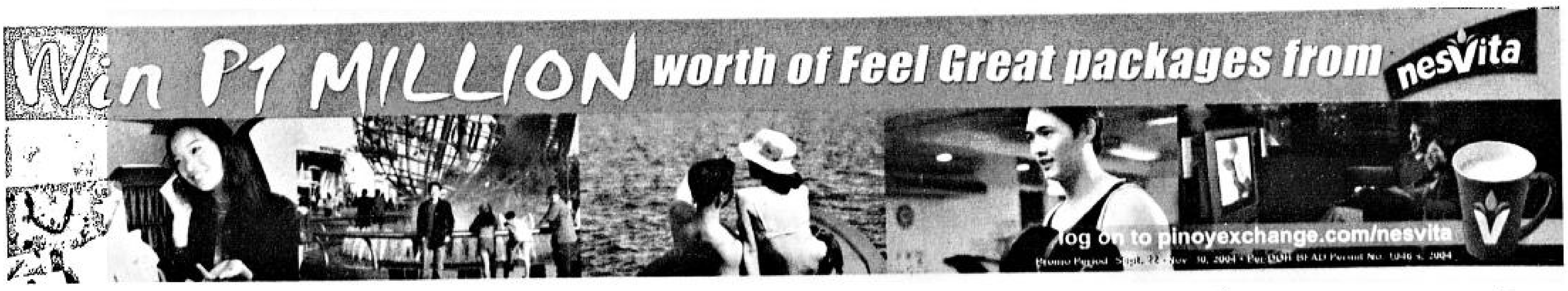
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log on to pinoyexchange.com/nesvita
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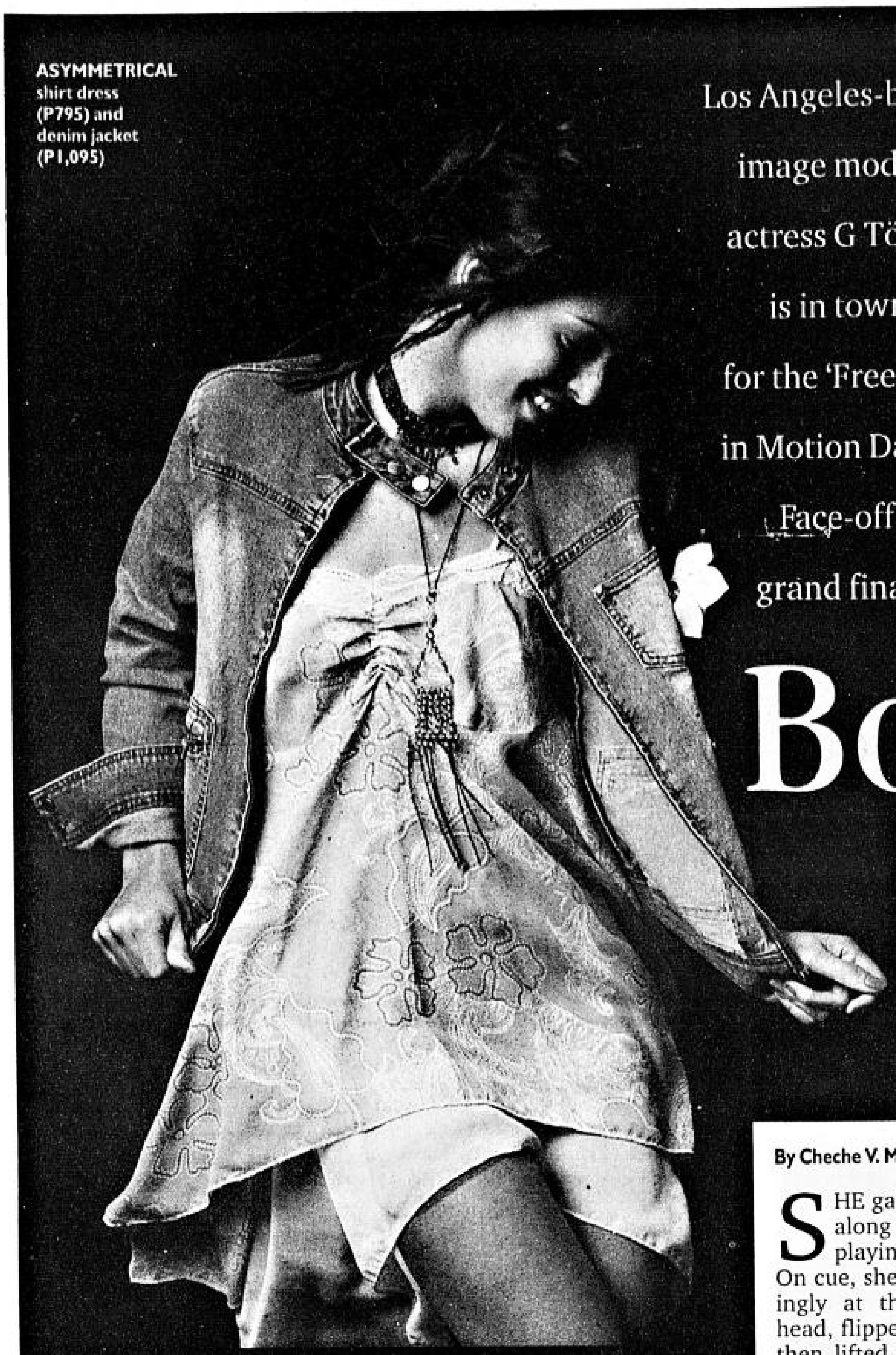

ASYMMETRICAL shirt dress (P795) and denim jacket (P1,095)

FLORAL-PRINT halter top (P495)

Los Angeles-based image model-actress G Töngi is in town for the 'Freeway in Motion Dance Face-off' grand finals

Bootylicious babe

By Cheche V. Moral

SHE gamely gyrated and sang along to the retro disco music playing in the background. On cue, she paused to gaze tauntingly at the camera, tilted her head, flipped her long mane here, then lifted the hem of her mesh poncho to reveal her pierced navel the next...

All gears were in motion at Freeway last week as it played host to the grand finals of its first-ever inter-school dance competition at SM Megamall. Just for the occasion, the trendy boutique flew in its image model, actress G Töngi, from her Los Angeles home base.

Dubbed "Freeway in Motion Dance Face-off," the contest witnessed the metro's top all-girl dance groups from eight universities one-up each other for the kitty worth over P100,000. Groovin with Hotlegs on finals night, G joined the panel of judges that picked UP Diliman's Street Dance Club as winner and Miriam College High School's Sayawatha as runner-up.

Mimicking the tilt's spirited fun, the shop that embodies the carefree and playful styles of today's youth, garbed the actress in its collection of sassy and booty-shakin' outfits for the INQUIRER shoot—body-skimming and skin-baring silhouettes, retro prints and gold shades, ruffles and lace, and soft, flowing fabrics that easily shift to the beat of music.

Lovely tan

Sporting a lovely tan, thanks to a recent surfing trip to Costa Rica—"with a friend," she said with a mischievous grin—the bubbly G best exemplifies the Freeway credo of hip and cheap: clothing that fits the youth's limitless style but limited allowance.

"I think I have my own sense of style," G says. "I like to mix cheap and expensive items. Here I'm quite lucky because I have stylist-friends who put things together for me."

Living in L.A. has made G adapt a simpler, laid-back look "because dressing up and looking good can be a lot of work." These days she prefers lounging around in sweat pants and trainers.

The actress is back indefinitely, and is even contemplating getting a dog "that will fit into my bag"! "I'm staying until Christmas, at least," she says. With some projects lined up in Japan ("print and TV commercials"), she says she may eventually be settling back in Asia, but not necessarily in the Philippines.

"I have a very short attention span," she 'fesses. "I like the constant change so moving around suits me fine."

This free spirit, meanwhile, has gotten entrepreneurial as she and a friend have launched a brand in Beverly Hills called Ellura, selling yoga mat bags, jewelry and beaded slippers, some of which are sourced here.

But while she's in town, expect to see G flittin' in her Freeway-clad booties to projects left and right.

ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES BY FREEWAY,
WITH BRANCHES IN MAJOR MALLS NATIONWIDE
PHOTOS: KEN GO
HAIR AND MAKEUP: BOBBY CARLOS
STYLING: KAT DY

RAINBOW-COLORED poncho (P495) and pink cropped pants with black belt (P895)

STRIPED tunic dress (P845) and denim pants with belt (P995)

PINK-AND-GOLD spaghetti-strapped top with butterfly print (P395), gold satin belt bag (P295) and brown pants (P895).

GREEN overlap turtleneck sleeveless top (P595) and denim jeans (P995)

BLACK cropped lace vest (P545) and polka-dot chiffon skirt (P625)

WIMBLEDON winner Maria Sharapova of Russia in her Nike tank dress AP

Serena's denim . . .

From page D1

by Mademoiselle Coco Chanel (and Madame Lelong). And that's it. (Yes, I'm that irrational and hardcore when it comes to Coco Chanel.)

Of course, Lagerfeld designed tennis outfits, shoes and bags for Chanel, in black and white. Vogue's Anna Wintour uses a Chanel tennis racket. But Serena's pleated and studded denims? If you had her superpowers on the court, perhaps.

It's Maria Sharapova's outfit and bearing that make her today's "it" girl. No frills. Just Nike tank dress that allows a tiny peek into her shorts. Now that's the get-up.

While I like Adidas when it comes to super active sports, it's still Nike's high-tech fabric (e.g. dri-fit) and now, designs, that make the cut, for me.

I just hope Nike doesn't make it that frilly.

At the end of the day, what's the supersexy attire you can wear to the court?

Sweat. Glistening sweat.

Monique at the Emmy's

It's unfortunate that the Monique Lhuillier show won't push through this year. The Cebuana-born designer, Amparito's darling daughter, continues to make giant waves in Hollywood. At the Emmy's this week, Allison Janney's green silk chiffon gown was by Monique, adjudged one of the fashion winners that night.

It was a masterstroke for Monique to go green. While color is everything this season and in the next, green isn't exactly the top of mind. Yet green it was for Monique. And true enough, green stood out that night. (This is a tip from INQUIRER writer in Los Angeles, Janet Nepales.)

Monique also did the wedding gown of Britney Spears.

Yes, Monique is on a roll.

However, only a Sarah Jessica Parker could pull off black, after centuries and centuries of black on the red carpet. While the fashion world and the stars have a running love-hate relationship with black, Parker stuck to it, in a lace-rich Chanel. And she looked ravishing that night.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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Tired? Stressed out? Want to pamper yourself without stressing out your pocket? Relax! Create your own home spa! All you need is a little creativity and a few essentials:

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Katie, what's this I hear about a boy? I don't think I've met him yet.
Daddy! I thought you were still in New York!
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BEFORE donning G-string panties, go and get a hair removal treatment.

Dealing with zits and unwanted hair after 30

LATELY, my hormones have been my greatest foes. I knew enough to expect changes when you hit your 30s, but I was thinking along the lines of fine lines and pigmentation which come with aging.

I was prepared with my eye creams, anti-aging serums for face-firming and dermal gadgets for exercising face muscles. I also never left home without my VMV Armada Sunblock SPF 60 during the day, or Shiseido's SPF 43 Sun Protection liquid foundation for day and night.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Sure enough, at 34, not a single wrinkle or freckle was in sight. But my hormones took another route and dragged me back to puberty, where unwanted hair started growing on my upper lip, strays sprouting back from my already "lasered" underarms and other parts of my body.

The worst? Cystic acne breakouts, where 30 huge zits were the record at one time. Never had I spent so much time going back and forth to the derma's office to have the zits injected.

Pigmentation came in the form of post-inflammatory change, a.k.a. brown pimple marks which remain after the pimples are long gone and multiply when my next cycle arrives.

My body was zit-free, but zit decided to sprout on my face, scalp and even inside my nose and ears. It was so bad that the pigmentation spread and I ended up waxing body hair every three weeks.

How did I fight it?

Pimples

I went back to the Obagi Nuderm system, which is always my last resort because I find it expensive at P17,000 for the entire set. Instead of the toner, however, my doctor gave me T-pads (wipes with anti-acne medicine) to kill off the acne bacteria. Considering that other anti-aging creams come at P18,000 or P26,000, I figured a set of six to rid me of pimple marks and acne-yet-to-come was reasonable.

Drugstore acne aids were just not cutting it fast enough, and they were also dehydrating my non-teen skin and making it sag a bit. Obagi made me peel big time!

The crustiest part was around my chin and mouth, then the forehead and nose. My smooth cheeks barely peeled, which was an indication that it was perfectly healthy, without toxins. The redness has subsided for me, and my skin is clearing up after 52 days of use.

The good news is, whenever I run out of the No. 3, my skin has already cleared up so I don't need to get more.

Pros: Skin is smooth, even-toned, poreless, moist, non-oily and firm after the step is completed, and holes via acne get shallower.

Cons: You get ugly first. Redness, peeling, dryness and discomfort during first three weeks. Product is expensive for most. You cannot buy outright; doctor's approval needed, according to Dr. Jenny Sison and Dr. Joanna Munoz of the Belo Medical Plaza.

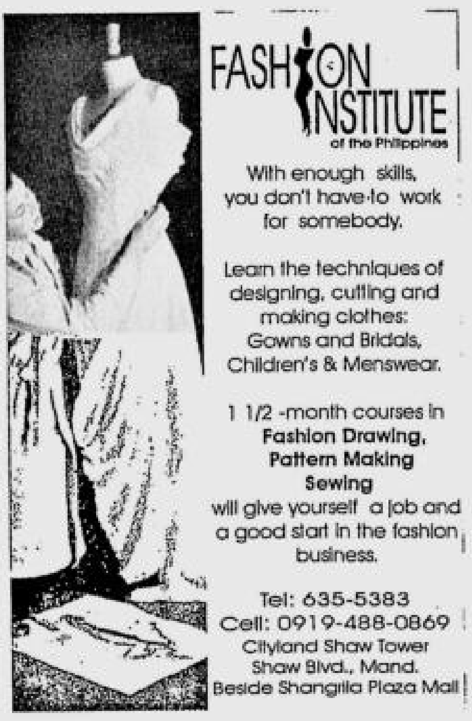
Unwanted hair

Belo at Rustan's came up with a new machine which combines IPL (Intense Pulse Light) and radio frequency (RF) called the Aurora. Its main purpose is for skin rejuvenation.

IPL fades pigmentation, controls oil, shrinks pores and stimulates collagen to fill in lines. RF firms the skin but also reduces hair.

I tested the solutions on areas with unwanted hair—the upper lip and underarms.

DEALING/E3



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Japanese Cooking: Oct. 2 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.. Techniques of preparing Sushi and Maki: Uni, Tuna, Tamago, Tekamaki, Spicy Salmon; Tempura Ebi and Kakiage; Chicken Teriyaki and Miso Yaki including the secret formulation of Teriyaki Sauce; Three (3) kinds of Japanese Salad and Dressings. Free Secrets of Japanese Cookbook. P1,000.

Cookies and Bars: Oct. 2 (Sat) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Chocolate Chip Nibblers, No-Roll Sugar Cookies, Danish Butter Cookies, Pinwheel Cookies, Cappuccino Thins. Bonus: Decadence Brownie including costing and packaging ideas for Christmas give-away. P600.

Regional Pinoy Cooking: By Popular Request! Oct. 9 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. La Paz Batchoy, Kilawin Kapampangan, Chicken Inasal (Bacolod Style), Bulalong Davao, Adobong Crispy Pata, Ilocos Bagnet (Lechon Kawali) P800.

Best Seller Sandwiches: Oct. 9 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. From Recipe Formulation, Dressing and plating with lecture on Proper Storing of Vegetables to increase shelf life and handling. Pastrami, Roast Beef ala Shawarma, Herbed Chicken, Clubhouse, Vegetarian Sandwich, Chef's Salad with Thousand Island Dressing, Caesar Salad, Honey Balsamic Dressing. P800.

Small Scale Food Business: Oct. 16 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Earn extra income! Start your own "Negosyo"! Coverage: Costing, Sales Profit Analysis with actual demonstration of "negosyo" line products: Bibingka, Waffle dog, Gulaman Palamig, Puto Pao, Pandesal with filling. Free Lunch. P1,000.

Snack Meals: Oct. 16 (Sat) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Flaky Empanada, Garlic Beef Muffins, Chicken Tarts, Stuffed Pizza, Asado Roll. P700.

CERTIFICATE COURSES (Limited enrolment. Pre-registration required. Ingredients inclusive)

Cooking 2: Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 or Oct. 12 - 15 (T-F) 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Review of Basic Culinary Principles; Meal Management; Knowledge of Herbs, Spices and Condiments; Basic Maintenance and Preservation of Food (Proper Receiving, Storage and Preparation); Menu Planning, Kitchen Accounting and Recipe Formulation; Actual Workshop on international cuisine: ethnic cooking, hors d'ouvre, salads, cooked/cured/prepared foods and quick desserts; Market Basket Activity. P5,000.

Baking 2: Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 or Oct. 12 - 15 (T-F) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Baking ingredients and their functions, baker's Percentage / Math, Commercial Methods used in preparing breads, pies, cakes, pastries and bakery products including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. Topics applicable to bakery operation. P3,000.

Waitering and Bartending Basics: Oct. 2, 9 and 16 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Waitering Etiquette, Table Set-up, bussing out, napkin folding and skirting, Classifications of Wine and Spirits, Type of glasses, mixing and serving of drinks. Bonus: Special Pulutan recipes. Free Lunch. P3,000.

Cooking I: Oct. 5 - 8 or Oct. 19 - 22 (T-F) 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Proper Hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; stocks, soups and sauces and its 1001 application to poultry, fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables, common herbs and spices; purchasing; marketing and proper storage; menu planning; simple garnish and plate presentation. Plus actual cooking workshop on the preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert. P4,000.

Baking I: Oct. 5 - 8 or Oct. 19 - 22 (T-F) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Basic basics of baking including techniques applied to the preparation of pies, quick breads, cakes and more. P3,000 with free cookbook.

COMING UP! Singaporean Cooking by Balik Rama, Oct. 23; Chinese Dimsum, Oct. 23; Cake Decorating (Basic), Oct. 23 & 30; Catering Seminar, Oct. 29 - 30.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

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Your Body Is A Wonderland	John Mayer	TONE URBODY
Your Body Is A Wonderland	John Mayer	POLY YOURBODY
Everytime	Britney Spears	TONE EVERYTIME
Everytime	Britney Spears	POLY EVERYTIME
Not Gonna Get Us	TATU	TONE NOTGONNA
Not Gonna Get Us	TATU	POLY NOTGONNA
Unchained Melody	Gareth Gates	TONE UNCHAINED
Unchained Melody	Gareth Gates	POLY UNCHAINED
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Decoration (Pei Chen Pei)	Jerry Yan	TONE DECORATION
Isolation (Ge U)	Jerry Yan	TONE ISOLATION
Back Home	Yellowcard	TONE BACKHOME
The Man I Was With You	Jimmy Bondoc	TONE THEMAN
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All That She Wants	Ace of Base	TONE ALLTHAT
[illegible]		
Isolation (Ge U)	Jerry Yan	POLY ISOLATION
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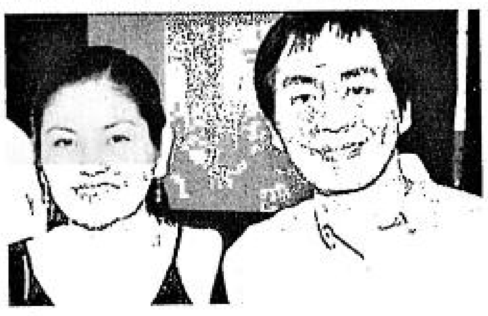
BEAUTIES and the celebrator. Birthday boy Bob Zozobrado with his harem of gal pals—Becky Garcia, Jennie Zamora; (standing) Cory Quirino, Mary Anne Lumen, Carminia Pavia and Ethel Timbol

MOI **and ace photographer Alex Van Hagen with (seated) Manila Standard's Jullie Yap Daza, Bob Z., Daily Tribune's Dinah Ventura and Arce Dairy's Digna Arce**



LIFESTYLE Asia editor Sari Yap with Manila Standard's AA Patawaran

Bob's bash, chocolate orgy and dancing on water

TAAL Vista Lounge Hotel's Alfonso Roca with Bacolod belle Anna Balcells

JUN Santos of the Spanish Embassy's commercial office

JOSE Miguel Cortes

BERGAMO's Mel Meer

MUSIC impresario and philanthropist Baby Arenas

TALL, lean and attractive Nicolette Bell with head-turner Liz Almoro

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

MY PAL **Bob Zozobrado**'s text message read: "I'm celebrating my birthday with an intimate luncheon for close friends. Please come."

Well, *palanggas*, the lunch was as intimate as Baclaran on a Wednesday. The entire Turf Room of the chi-chi Polo Club was exclusively reserved for practically the whole town arriving for the high-moon bash, all paying tribute to the ever-cool and gentlemanly Bob Z., now a public relations and events manager (with his own company, IdeaZ), society columnist of the Manila Standard, and professor of tourism and marketing at Far Eastern University and my alma mater, Lyceum of the Philippines.

With Bob were his eldest son, **Juan Carlos** (Bob's only daughter, **Ana Beatriz**, now lives and works in Seattle, and his youngest son, **Jose Miguel**, had an exam that day) and his "surrogate mother," aunt **Mary Tison**, who helped entertain the invitees, *palanggas*.

Amid the endless chatter, I spotted **Bill Velasco**, host of "The Basketball Show" and **Luke Pasiliao** of Solar TV; NBC top gun **Francisco Lumen**, who breezed in with his eye-catching, adorable wife, **Mary Ann Ojeda**; sportscaster **Anthony Suntay**; hostess with the mostest, socialite **Nene Leonor**; and exotic beauty **Maricor Nieto** and **Bobong Velez**.

Serge Ayson arrived late-ish.

Consummate interior stylist **Rachy Cuna** shared the table with *la simpatica* **Alice Cruz**, owner of Borders, and our *palangga*, **Sandra Garcia**, who's now the marketing boss of Shangri-La Plaza's Stores Specialists.

Also present were Rustan's **Malu Francisco** and my pal, **Ella Reyes-Choy**. We hadn't seen Ella in ages, but she was still attractive, only with a couple of pounds more here and there.

We also saw hotshot **Khun Chertchai** of Thai Airways, **Emily Martinez** and **Malu Duenas**, natch, and **Jet Cabuslay** of the Macau Government Tourism Office.

During lunch, **Jullie Yap Daza** and *moi* couldn't have enough of the excellent tuna carpacio with chives and the yum-yum Fabada-like minestrone soup.

Bob Z. later announced, "I want everyone to leave the party with a song in your heart." So he called in his close pal, **Toni Gregory**, to join him in one of his favorite pieces, "What the World Needs Now." Everybody joined in the singing.

Needless to say, at the end, everyone enthusiastically sang, "Happy Birthday, Bob!" as the waiters rolled in a colorific birthday cake.

Ooops... No... no candles, please...

BOB'S eldest son, Carlos; Sam Constantino; the celebrator; Krip Yuson; Joy Sabado; (seated) Singapore Airlines' top gal, Rita Dy; everyone's favorite TV reporter, Cheche Lazaro; former tourism secretary Narz Lim; and artist Phyllis Zaballero

Chocolote crazy

Everyone just goes ga-ga over chocolate. Well, almost everyone, *'di bala*? After all, from the time our baby-milk teeth grow to the time our real teeth fall out, we partake of chocolate in one form or another.

Now another world-renowned chocolate has landed in our shores, palanggas.

Dove, an absolutely calorific, yummy-yummy chocolate, is from the same company that gave us the popular Mars bars. Super creamy and smooth, Dove has been getting rave reviews from several launching parties. Guests got a gift pack consisting of Dove bars in different variants: milk chocolate, hazelnut, and fruit and nut.

It was the superhero-theme birthday party of **Manny del Rosario** held at the flat of his steadier-than-steady lady love, **Celine Lopez**, where Dove became the super chocolate of the night.

Hotshot namedropables who have tasted this chocolate in various events included our Southern boy, starmaker **Joji Dingcong**; triple facet gal **Karen Santos**; Lily's sultry **Jessica Puyat**; **Yenny Gonzales**; **Shelli Manuel**; Boracay's popular Nami Resort's **Lex Ledesma**; CPK's **Archie Rodriguez**; and miss with the 4B's **Bea Valdes**; savvy couple **Lito** and **Charry Mercado**; **Chelu Marques**; my favorite pepperoni, **Pepper Teehankee**; brilliant architect and interior designer **Anton Mendoza** and drop-dead gorgeous VJ and model **Mark San Diego**; London gal **Jenny Manuel**; vivacious **Mia Trinidad-Hashim**, vacationing from Malaysia; gorgeous **Melissa Lopez** with her steady-steady lover, French businessman **Joel Journe**; back-from-New York **Sunshine de Leon**, with her love, ADB's **Antonio Ressano Garcia**; back-from their glorious European honeymoon, **Jackie** and **Marco Antonio**; and newlyweds **Manny** and **Mia Tambunting-Padilla**; hip businessman **Patrick Reyno** and **Marcel Crespo**; chefs **Monique** and **Mon Eugenio**; and writer and PR gentry **JR Isaac**. They were all ecstatic over their, chocolate loot bags.

Recently, Dove samples were given out to diners of Nuvo, Cirkulo, Azumaya, Uva and Kai.

Okay people, now go and check out Dove at top supermarkets.

LOVE my Dove chocs. Pretty, pretty Bea Locsin

GLORIETTA'S loveliest lily, sultry Jessica Puyat

Water dance

It was one of those celebrations to die for, palanggas, with the world-renowned Johnson & Johnson as host.

It was held at the breezy poolside of the Hotel InterContinental Makati. It was the first ever "Water Disco" where the "swimsuited and swell" fantastic women of Manila let their hair hang and had fun.

Stunning in their chi-chi swimwear and having a ball were cool chicks **Avi Siwa**, **Raya Mananquil** and **Nicolette Bell**; *tres* fashionable **Minelli Bautista** with co-Mega babes **Pierra Calasanz** and **Terrie Gutierrez**; fashion designing gals **Tippi Ocampo** and **Trish Briones**; and **Liz Almoro** and Globe's **Joy Arkoncel**. Gorgeous **Vanessa Mayuga** of Luxasia had many heads turning her way, *palanggas*.

Where the gals are, there the guys must be, too: hip designer **Dennis Lustico**, makeup master **Patrick Rosas** and brilliant director **Jackie Aquino**. They rocked to the music of DJ **Trinity** of Halo.

The partying pack was truly on a roll in the bubbly atmosphere created by candy-colored brights, neon floats, funky inflatables and amazing lighting effects—all in the spirit of "Bubble-Gram meets Euro Disco."

Tricia Chiongbian and **Shannen Torres** did a real cool job of hosting the event, getting everyone to drink, drink, drink, and dance and have fun.

ALL in the famille. Popular French businessman Joel Journe with gorgeous half-sisters Melissa and Celine Lopez

DESIGNER Dennis Lustico with Ito Ocampo and Tippi Ocampo

QUICK, take my photo. Super fun columnist and PR gent JR Isaac

MODELS Mark San Diego (left) and Matt Hadfield (right) flank top architect Anton Mendoza and *moi*.

MIA Trinidad with still-on-honeymoon-heaven Mia Tambunting and Manny Padilla

EYE-CATCHING OB followers Shannen Torres and Tricia Chiongbian

HEY, there's Robin and Batman! Marco Antonio and Ipe Cruz

EL CIRKULO'S top women, Malu Gamboa and Jenny Manuel

AWARD-WINNING TV and movie actor Eric Quizon and Yenny Gonzales

MON and Monique Eugenio of the popular Chefs and Caterers

SHU Uemura super achievers Tina Tinio and Xeng Zulueta

Cosmetic demos herald new makeup line

KANEBO, the cosmetic and skin-care brand from Japan, has released the autumn-winter 2004 collection of its T'estimo line.

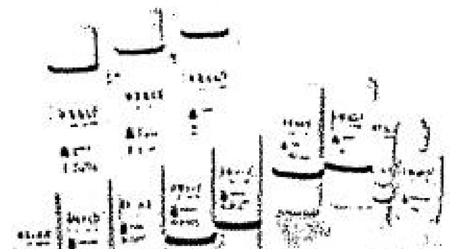
In line with the launch, there will be makeover demos on Sept. 23-25 at the Kanebo counter at Rustan's Makati, and on Sept. 26 at Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, from 12 nn-8 p.m.

Junya Yoneda, a professional makeup artist from Japan, will conduct the demos.

T'estimo's autumn/winter collection boasts of an improved Beauty Shaping line that brings out femininity with a fresh, wet-looking gloss and shine. The line contains Sheer 3D Pearl, which provides a multi-dimensional, translucent effect on the face. It makes colors appear to change, depending on the angle and position of light.

Also included in the collection are the Styling Rouge, which has eight new colors, and Pure Eyes, which has five colors.

Kanebo also releases the Rouge Clear Filter UV to protect lips from UV rays; Color Lighting, a face color that creates a bright impression; and nail color for gorgeous fingers.



OBAGI
Nuderm system

Dealing with zits and unwanted hair after 30

From page E1

By far, this system has yielded the best results for me.

The underarms don't hurt but the upper lip does, so I recommend EMLA to deal with the latter.

We talked about trying it out on an area that has never been "lasered" before, so I opted for my bikini line, with the anesthesia soaking on while I had my face cleaned. There was no pain during the first session, and I lost 60 percent of the hair.

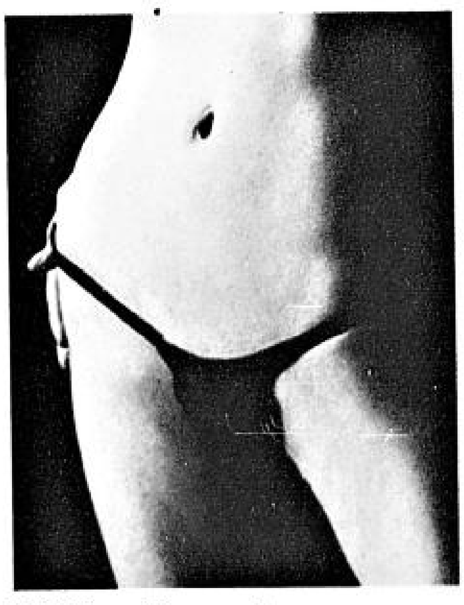
During the second session, they raised the frequency and left the anesthetic longer to see if it would be another success story. I lost another 25 percent from the original, but ouch! I could feel the heat emanating through my pants when the anesthetic started wearing off two hours after treatment.

Session 3 was the fastest because there was hardly any hair left. It was a lot less painful than session 2. Frankly, I can stop at this session because there are very few left in the area which the skimpiest swimsuits will cover, so I am done at 3! Dr. Regina Llorin is my doctor there.

Note: Aurora hair removal is the same cost per session as the other lasers: P5,000 for bikini (French) and underarms, P20,000 for whole leg, P12,500 for half leg and P2,500 for nipple and upper lip.

Brazilian bikini wax lovers are discouraged from going zero because we need those hairs to prevent infection, so the most they will do is semi-Brazilian (thin line leftover) which is P10,000 per session. Obagi is available at all Belo Medical Group clinics, except the one at Rustan's Makati

Call 8177178, e-mail: belomed@pacific.net.ph or visit www.belomed.com



BIKINI laser hair removal

PETER Urbi styles the hair of top model Matt Hadfield.

Free beauty consultation

SANCTUARIO Spa and Salon is offering free hair and makeup consultations for the "metrosexual man" and "women-on-the-go," 4-8 p.m. daily at 1829 Jorge Bocobo St., Malate, Manila.

Peter Urbi joined recently Sanctuario as the salon's senior stylist and beauty consultant. Urbi trained under British haircutter Stephen Bradley and Vidal Sason. He was stylist for Douglas Nierras' Power Dance for eight years and was also the favorite stylist of the late designer Joe Salazar.

Call 4501127, 5219904 or 0917-8338499.

Beauty expo opens Sept. 24

THE FIRST-EVER Beauty and Wellness Business Expo 2004 (BWExpo) will be held Sept. 24-26 at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

A concept of Image Plus Business Solutions, the BWExpo is a business opportunity expo on the booming industry of beauty and wellness. It brings together business and wellness professionals, as well as potential participants in the industry. The project gives would-be beauty and wellness entrepreneurs information on how to source the best products at the best prices. They can also learn how to start beauty/wellness ventures, get the best services to develop existing businesses, be informed on the latest trends and innovations in the world of beauty and wellness, and meet the who's who in the industry.

The event is co-organized by the Tourism Class 3T4 of the University of Santo Tomas, with the Spa Association of the Phils. and Philippine International Haircutters Association.

Other sponsors of the event are: Lipton, Reyes Haircutters International Company, HBC Inc., Shiseido Professional by Handle Enterprises, INQUIRER, The Manila Times, Enterprise Magazine, Health and Lifestyle Magazine, Mellow Touch 94.7, Commzgate Phils., The Richmonde Hotel, Kuhala Bay Resort, Chase Technologies Corp., All Card Plastic Phils., All Visual and Lights System, Ad-Man Resources and UK Derm Pharma.

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A classy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's dominantly neutrals
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hoobastank, Incubus
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, Ibiza

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and sci-fi
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well-done
B. Rare
C. Medium-rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and drive
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you the way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody. You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

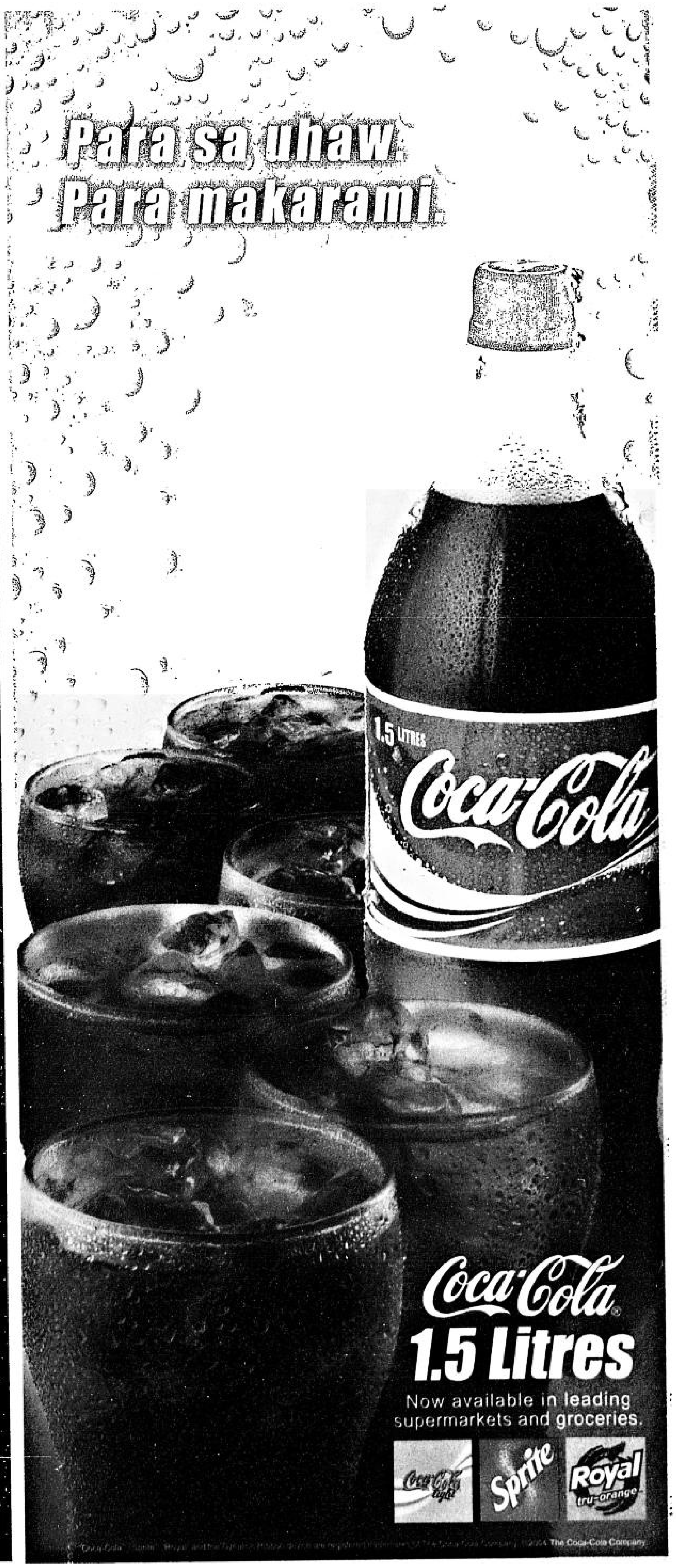
If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you!

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke—you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're ultra sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.



Skincare that makes menopause exciting

Murad Resurgence addresses the skincare needs of women undergoing a crucial transition in their middle years

MARILEN Tomacruz, a Murad Resurgence user

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

MURAD Resurgence products: (from left) Renewing Cleansing Cream gently cleanses and exfoliates the skin; Age-Diffusing Serum inhibits collagen breakdown and increases elasticity to reduce the appearance of wrinkles and sagging; and Renewing Eye Cream repairs eye puffiness.

WOMEN can't turn back the hands of time. Sooner or later, they have to face the reality: Menopause.

Yes, it is widely experienced but rarely discussed. But you may look at it this way: Menopause signals a shift into a new, exciting phase of life, and women in the middle years may yet live better and enjoy life to the fullest.

With the new Murad Resurgence, a complete line of skincare products, women who have made this life transition now have a special regimen designed for their skin concerns.

In his book, "The Murad Method: Wrinkle-Proof, Repair, and Renew Your Skin with the Proven 5-Week Program," dermatologist Howard Murad points out that menopausal women will definitely notice changes in their skin, especially increased dryness and wrinkling.

"Women's skin is affected by the shifting balance of hormones just prior to, during and after menopause," writes Dr. Murad. "Women who never had breakouts in their lives may find they now get pimples, as they have less estrogen to suppress the sebum-stimulating androgen circulation in their bodies. For the same reason, they may have more facial hair and they may perspire more."

Murad adds that women past menopause may have more visible sun damage, such as brown spots and fine, dilated blood vessels and increasingly sensitive skin.

To prevent the appearance of aging skin, Murad suggests a preventive skin care regimen.

The regimen

In three decades of clinical experience and after careful evaluation of his patients, Dr. Murad discovered that there are four key steps to proper skin care that can actually fight off hormonal aging: Cleansing, toning, treating and repairing, and moisturizing and protecting.

Murad Resurgence offers naturally-based formulas to gently ease the symptoms of menopause. It helps restore hydration and vibrancy to the skin.

"Murad skin care products have been designed specifically for perimenopausal, menopausal and postmenopausal women, as well as those with drier skin needing moisture," says Christine Arriola, brand manager for Murad products.

Under the Resurgence line are four topical products that cleanse, tone, repair and moisturize.

Renewing Cleansing Cream (200 ml) is a luxurious, pearlized cleansing cream that contains apricot oil, evening primrose oil and Borage seed oil to enhance hydration; it has papaya enzymes to provide gentle, natural exfoliation.

Age-Diffusing Serum (30 ml) is an anti-aging treatment that firms and fortifies. This silky serum with soy, wild yam extracts and collagen protectors inhibits collagen breakdown and increases elasticity to reduce wrinkles and sagging.

Sheer Lustre Day Moisture SPF 15 (50 ml) brings back skin radiance. Avocado, evening primrose and Borage seed oil help condition skin, while the natural phytoestrogens and isoflavones in soy, wild yam and clove flower extracts increase firmness.

Age-Balancing Night Cream (50 ml) is a rich cream that contains chaparral extract, clinically proven to slow facial hair growth by 22 percent in 12 weeks. A complex of omega-3 oils, shea butter and conditioners hydrate and retexturize to restore skin's balance and vibrancy.

Dr. Murad also formulated an oral supplement to help balance internal symptoms. Calming Nighttime Supplement (60 tablets) has melatonin that induces calmness, reduces irritability and prevents sleep disturbances. B-complex vitamins and glucosamine promote overall health, boost collagen production and relieve joint pain.

Businesswoman Marilen Tomacruz, 45, has been a regular user of Murad's Resurgence and Vitamin C products, and she swears by their effectiveness. "I find Murad's skincare lines mild and less irritating. They don't make my skin red or itchy. In fact, I can still combine Murad products with other skincare brands without experiencing any harsh or drying effect," Tomacruz claims.

Tomacruz applies Murad's Vitamin C moisturizer and Resurgence eye cream for daytime use. At night, she uses the Resurgence cleanser, toner and moisturizer. "Murad's moisturizer makes my skin firmer and supple when I wake up in the morning. Also, my freckles disappear ever since I used Murad's Resurgence."

The whole line of Murad Resurgence is exclusively available at Rustan's Essenses in Makati and Alabang.

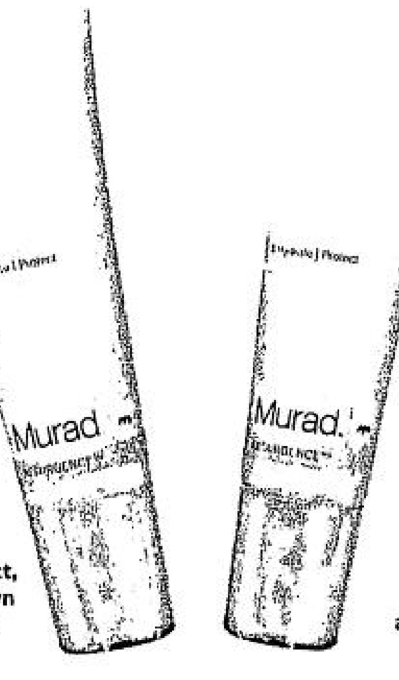
Resurgence treatment

Come October, The Murad Spa, a skin treatment institute at the fifth level of Rustan's in Makati, will offer Resurgence Renewal Facial, a specialized 90-minute treatment which gradually brings back the skin firmness, multi-layer skin hydration and reduction of fine lines and wrinkles.

The treatment basically starts with cleansing to remove dirt from the pores, followed by toning, which acts as an astringent that removes traces of cleanser from the skin and leaves the pores tightened. A soothing massage cream is applied to the face, neck and décolleté to repair and restore damaged skin. The moisturizing cream is applied last, leaving the newly-prepared skin protected and hydrated, to prevent dryness and irritation.

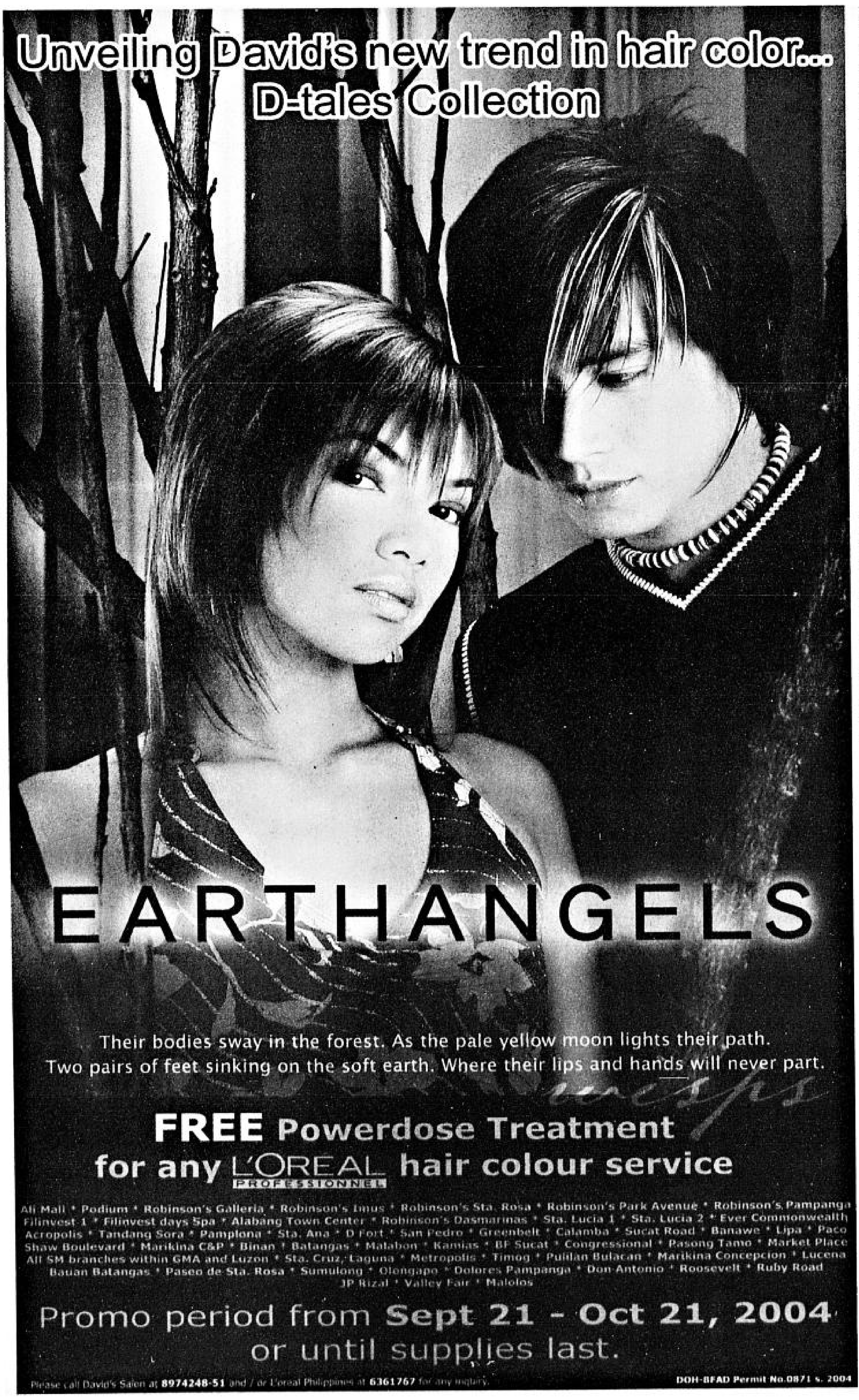
The Murad Spa in Rustan's Makati has four treatment rooms, a consultation area and relaxation room for clients.

Dr. Murad will be back in the Philippines in November to give a series of lectures and one-on-one consultations. Call 8191610 (Makati) and 8505532 (Alabang).



AGE-BALANCING Night Cream contains chaparral extract, which slows down unwanted facial hair growth.

SHEER Lustre Day Moisture SPF15 brightens, moisturizes and protects the skin.



Unveiling David's new trend in hair color...
D-tales Collection

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Promo period from Sept 21 - Oct 21, 2004
or until supplies last.

Please call David's Salon at 8974248-51 and / or L'oreal Philippines at 6361767 for any inquiry.

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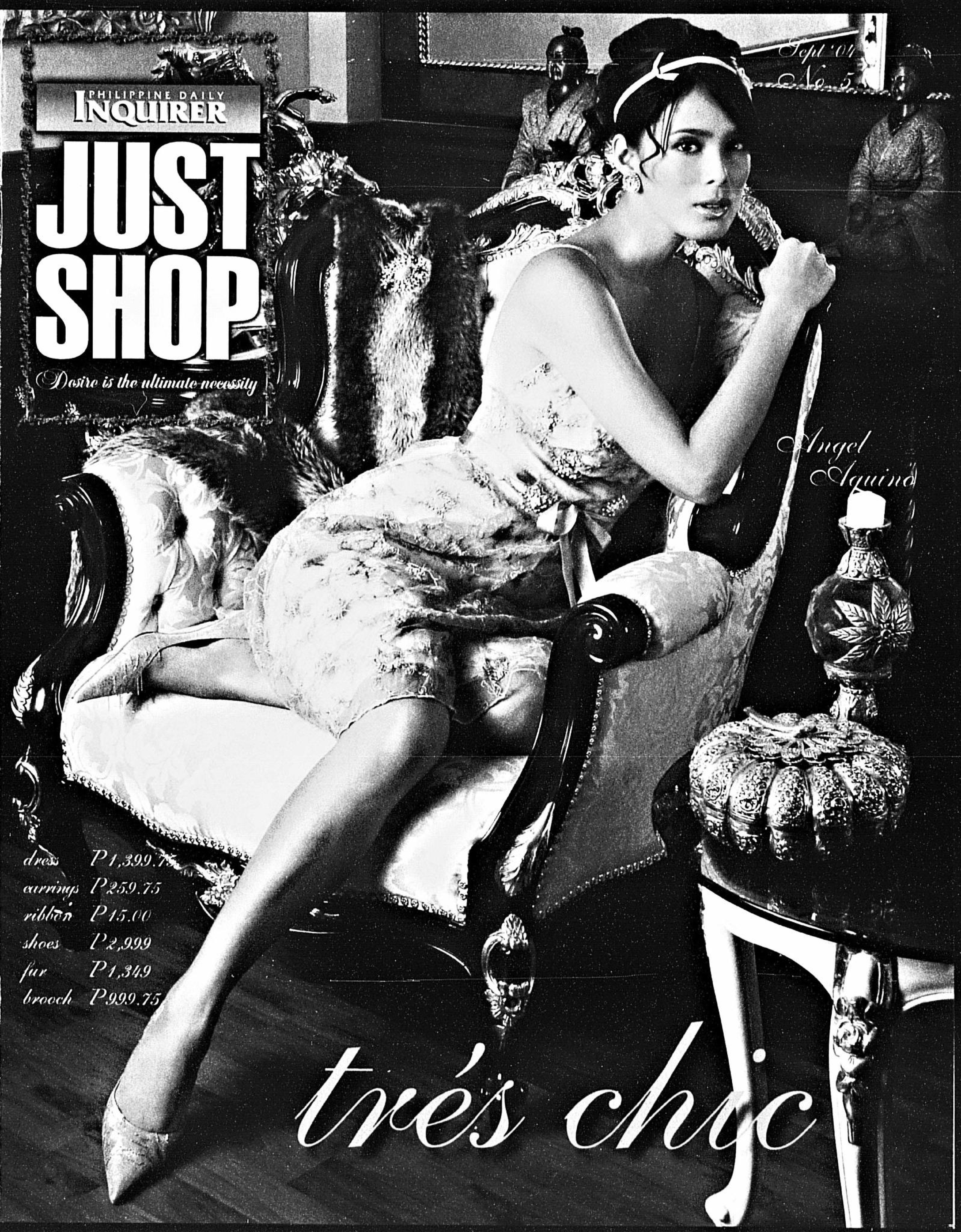
Sept '04
No. 5



Angel Aquino

dress	*P1,399.75*
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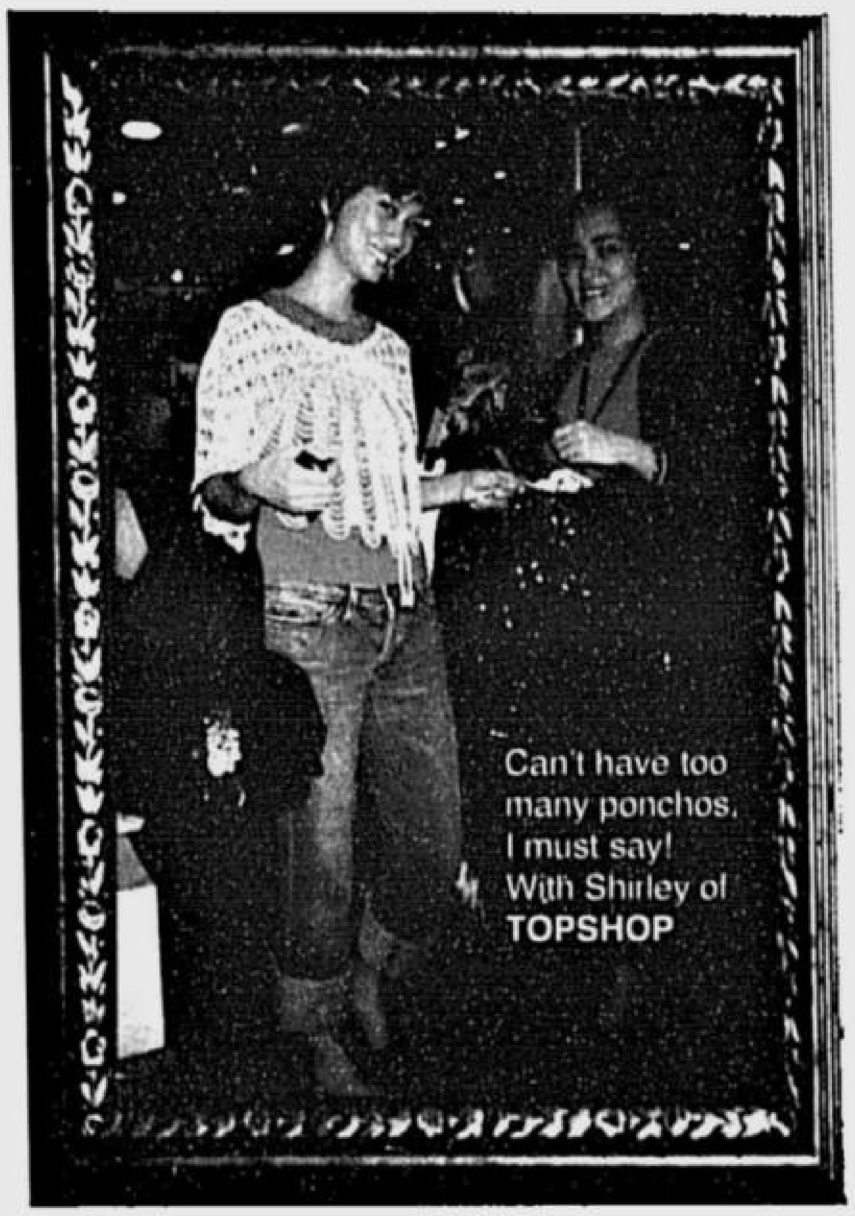


Can't have too many ponchos, I must say! With Shirley of **TOPSHOP**

Chic it baby!

I get asked this so many times: "What/Who is chic?" If you ask me, chic isn't only about being stylish, fashionable, and well dressed. It's also about adding a touch of refinement, sophistication, and class to your way of dressing. They seem like big words (and big expectations!) but fear not. I have news for you: the chic factor is not reserved for an exclusive few. It does not necessarily mean high-priced, sky's-the-limit budgets. Going chic doesn't mean going bankrupt. Prime examples of this very-chic-very-cheap phenom are H&M (it will soon unveil its Karl Lagerfeld line) and the Gap (who has employed Marc Jacobs' designer, Pina Ferlisi, to revamp the once "basics only" label).

On the home front, shopping havens like SM and Bench have become a byword among those who have the good sense to keep both fashion sense and common (financial) sense intact. To illustrate this further, Liza Ilarde had a shopping spree at Herbench, while Apples Sadhwani snapped up some classy finds at Mimi Cosmetics. Check out their amazing finds in Style Philes.

Her fabulous chicness and cover girl Angel Aquino is on it too. With her keen eye and good taste, she spots the finest finds in the most bargain of bargain places in Celebrity Style! With this chic and cheap mantra "guiding" us this issue, we've found ways to elevate your chic status without blowing the bank! Quirky Chic, Street Chic, Elegant Chic, Easy Chic—whatever your chic personality is, we have something for you. But we're not the only ones putting the chic in cheap. During Ayala Center's Midnight Madness, JUST SHOP ambushed stylish shoppers with their bargain finds. Take a cue from their low budget but high-in-style purchases in Shop In Style.

Also beginning this month, fresh from her year-long stint as an accessories design student at Instituto Marangoni in molto chic Milan, Amina Aranaz joins JUST SHOP as accessories columnist. Take her lead into the easy chic way of putting on the bling in Bling It On!

All this and more for some clever chic inspiration in this issue of JUST SHOP! Happy Shopping!

creative director
JENNI EPPERSON

fashion assistant
KATRINA CRUZ

Philippine Daily Inquirer
Lifestyle Editor
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO

* * *

Next month in JUST SHOP:

Holiday Gift Guide Special!

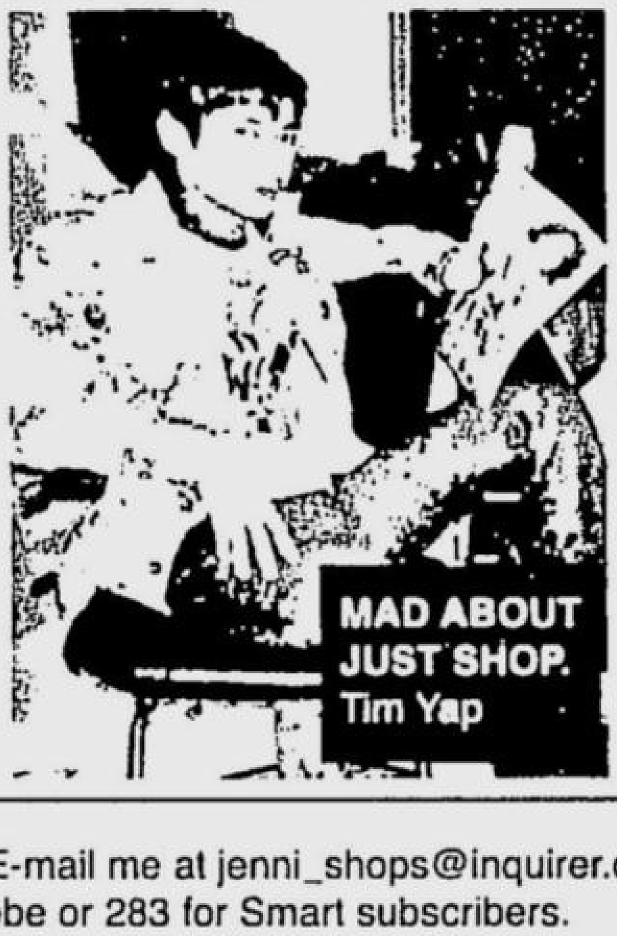
- Perfect presents for the hardest people to buy for
- Best Christmas Bazaars
- JUST SHOP For Men! Tim Yap as guest editor

Out on October 29!

* * *

JUST SHOPPERS!

TOPSHOP-PERS. Photo op with bargain hunters during Midnight Madness Sale



MAD ABOUT JUST SHOP. Tim Yap

JUST SHOP Fan. *mother* Henri Calayag

The Cover

Photography **TOM EPPERSON**
Digital Retouching **ARNZ LORENZO**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Makeup **LEO POSADAS** of Essensuals by Toni & Guy
Hair **RICKY SON**
Model **ANGEL AQUINO**
Shot on location at **Masterpiece Furniture & Interiors by Simbulan**
Special thanks to **Ms. Gigi Simbulan**

Runway dress, P1,399.75, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**; Marble Ink shoes, P2,999, **CMG**; **CAROLINA'S LACE SHOPPE** ribbon, P15/yard; **MARCELLA** earrings, P259.75; **MANGO** faux fur stole, P1,349; **MARCELLA** brooch, P999.75.

I'd love to get your comments or suggestions. E-mail me at jenni_shops@inquirer.com.ph or text INQUIRER JSHOP NAME/CITY/MESSAGE to 2207 for Globe or 283 for Smart subscribers.

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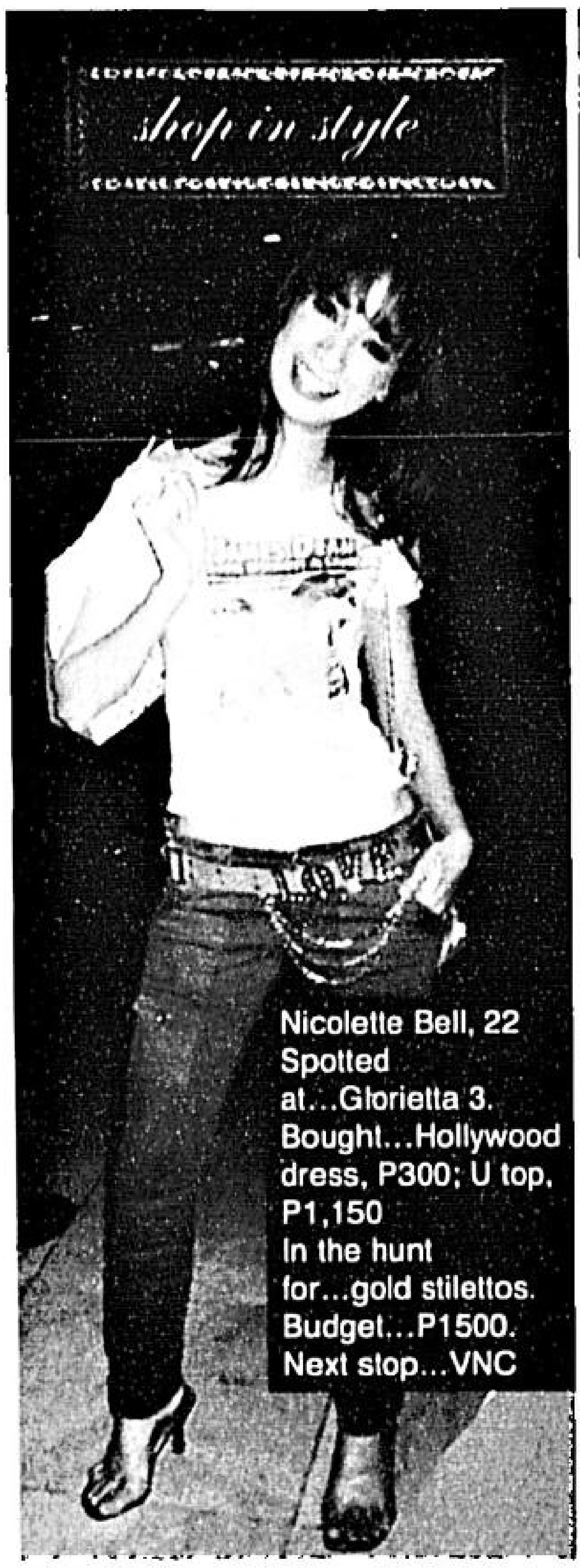
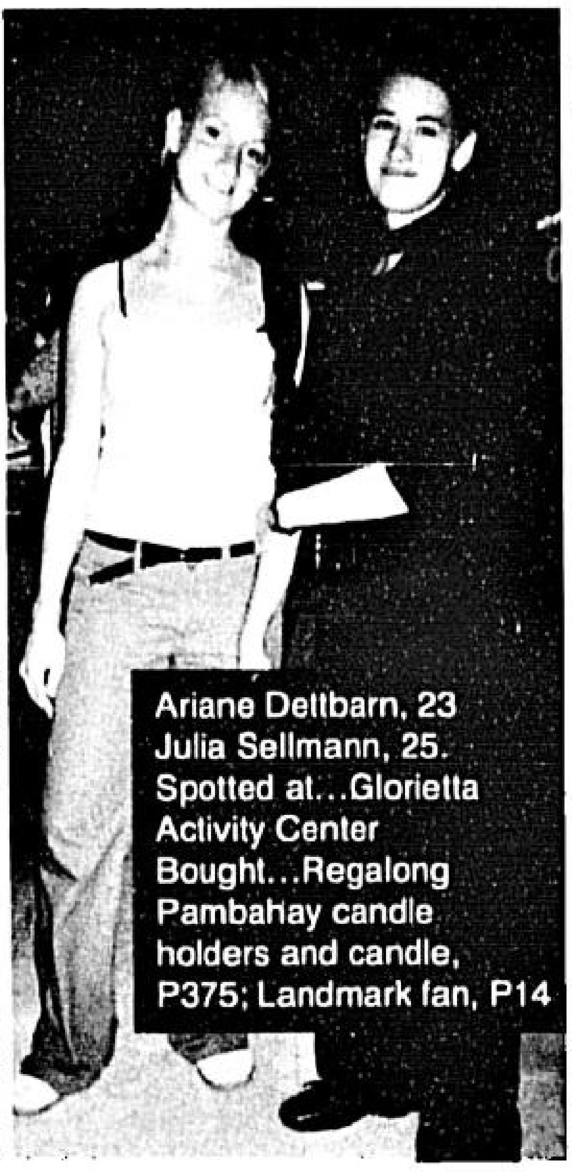


Nicolette Bell, 22
Spotted at…Glorietta 3.
Bought…Hollywood dress, P300; U top, P1,150
In the hunt for…gold stilettos.
Budget…P1500.
Next stop…VNC

Cool shop owners of YRYS Gene and Gayle Gozum



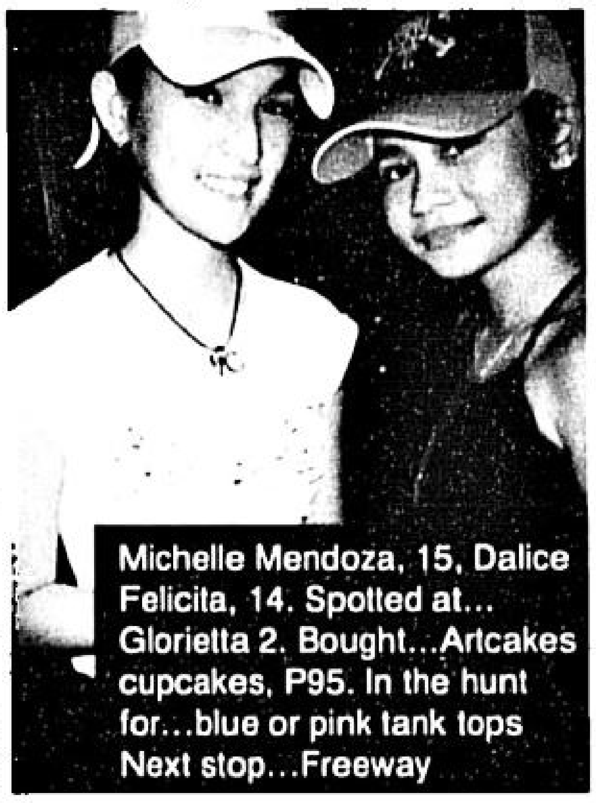
Ariane Dettbarn, 23
Julia Sellmann, 25.
Spotted at…Glorietta Activity Center
Bought…Regalong Pambahay candle holders and candle, P375; Landmark fan, P14

Korinah Rebustes, 18
Gienah Rebustes, 24
Spotted at…Glorietta 3
Bought…Lulu bag, YVIP shorts and top, U earrings and tube top. In the hunt for…underwear and anything in Topshop and Mango. Next stop…Women's Secret

Mikey del Rosario, 22,
Denise Tolentino, 21
Spotted at…Citiwalk, Glorietta 2
Bought…Oxygen shirt, P299; Landmark sweatshirt, P399.46 for mom
In the hunt for…anything interesting

Midnight Shoppers

Caught in the act! Crazed shoppers invaded the Midnight Madness at Ayala Malls all dolled up in cool style.



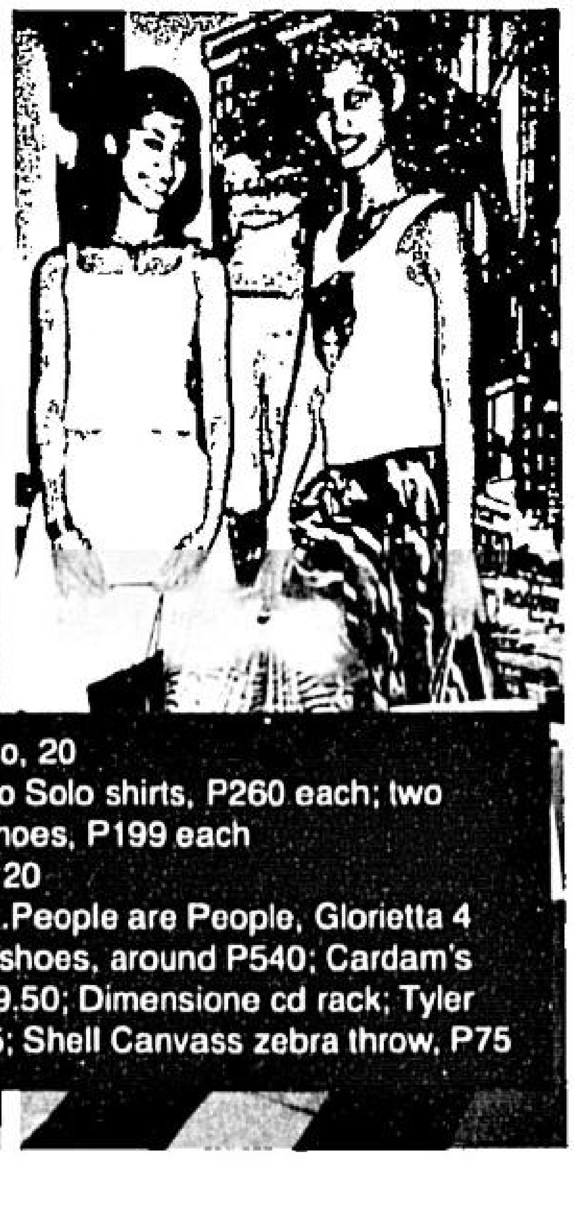
Michelle Mendoza, 15, Dalice Felicita, 14. Spotted at…Glorietta 2. Bought…Artcakes cupcakes, P95. In the hunt for…blue or pink tank tops
Next stop…Freeway

Altina Aquino, 20, Ingrid Chavez, 20
Spotted at…VNC.
Bought…printed shirts, P540, capri pants, P640, cuffed jeans, P500, two tube tops, P340 each, all from Must Have. In the hunt for…shoes.
Budget…P2000. Next stop…VNC and X:odus

Grace Velasco, 26,
Jean Prudente, 25
Spotted at…Glorietta 3.
Bought…Lush Rehab shampoo, P350. In the hunt for…cocktail dress
Budget…P5000. Next stop…Tyler

MIDNIGHT
MADNESS

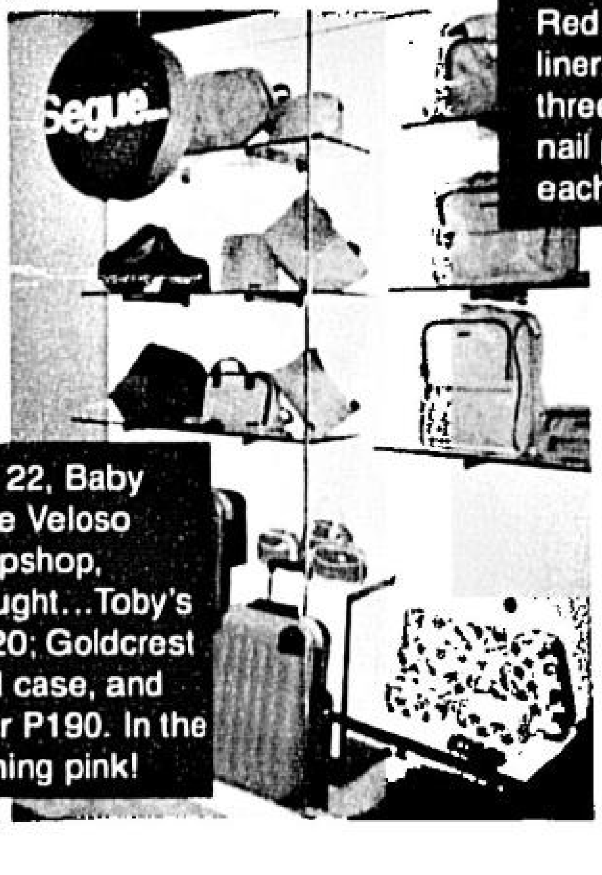
Julia Suarez, 20
Spotted at…Glorietta 3
Bought…Terranova dress, P299; Red Earth lip liner, P59.60, three bottles of nail polish, P20 each.



Sarah Jaleco, 20
Bought…two Solo shirts, P260 each; two Cardam's shoes, P199 each
Ria Bolivar, 20
Spotted at…People are People, Glorietta 4
Bought…U shoes, around P540; Cardam's shoes, P599.50; Dimensione cd rack; Tyler dress, P195; Shell Canvass zebra throw, P75

Cutie! Hazelle Lao of Mango

Liana Navarro, 22, Baby Veloso, 9, Elline Veloso
Spotted at…Topshop, Glorietta 2. Bought…Toby's basketball, P320; Goldcrest makeup, pencil case, and necklace, all for P190. In the hunt for…anything pink!



i am Super

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chic and the city

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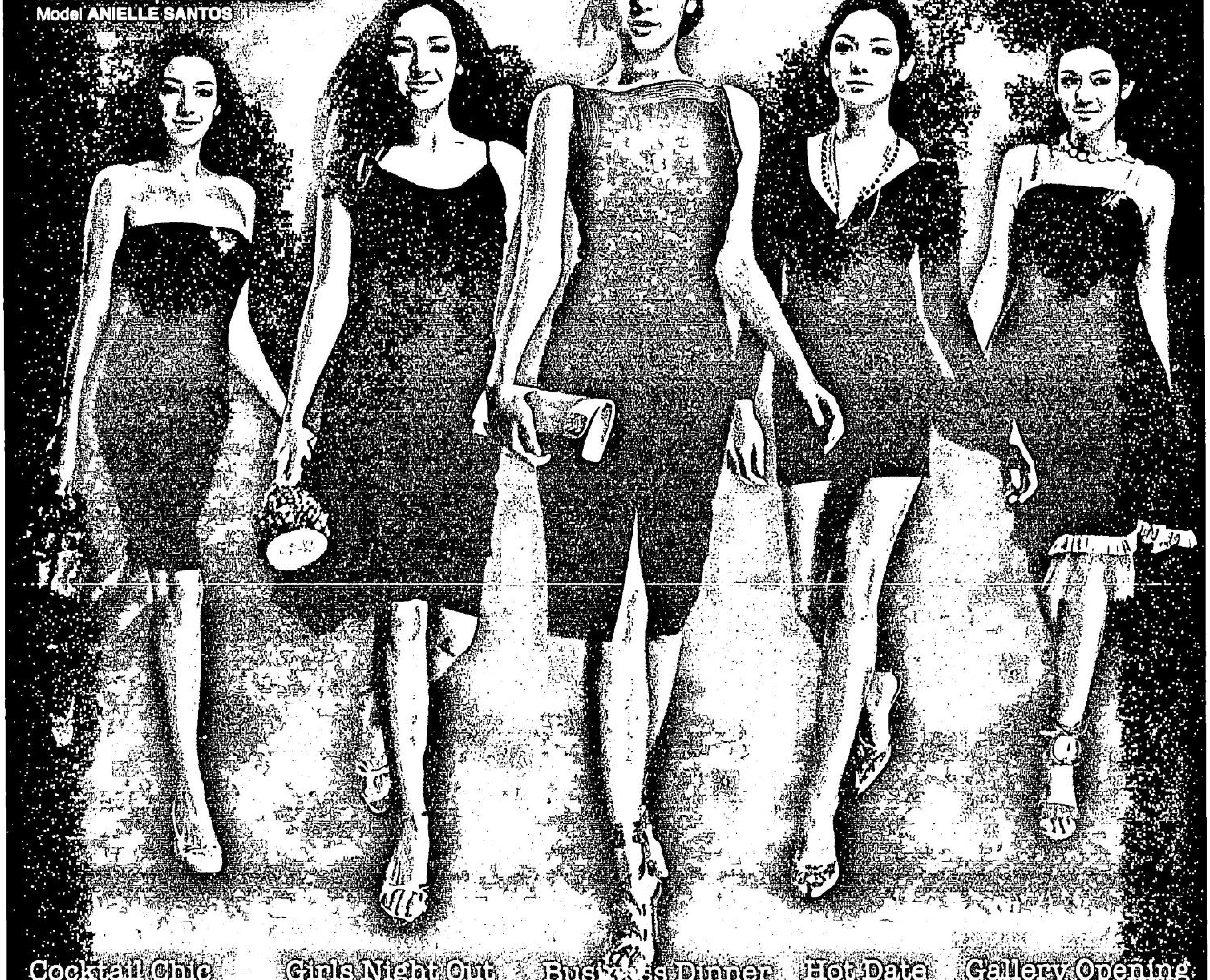
Photography **MARK NICDAO**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Hair and Makeup **BENJIE ANGELES**
Model **ANIELLE SANTOS**

Paul Smith Autumn/Winter 2004



Cocktail Chic

FREEWAY dress, P895; Parisian Jr., shoes P349.75, Ms. Handbag Collection, P199.75, both from **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**; Brooches, butterfly, P499, crown, P599, pentagon, P599, all from **THE BLACK SHOP**.

Girls Night Out

TWEEDS dress, P2,450; **RUSTY LOPEZ** shoes, P949.75; Ms. Handbag Collection, P349.75, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**.

Business Dinner

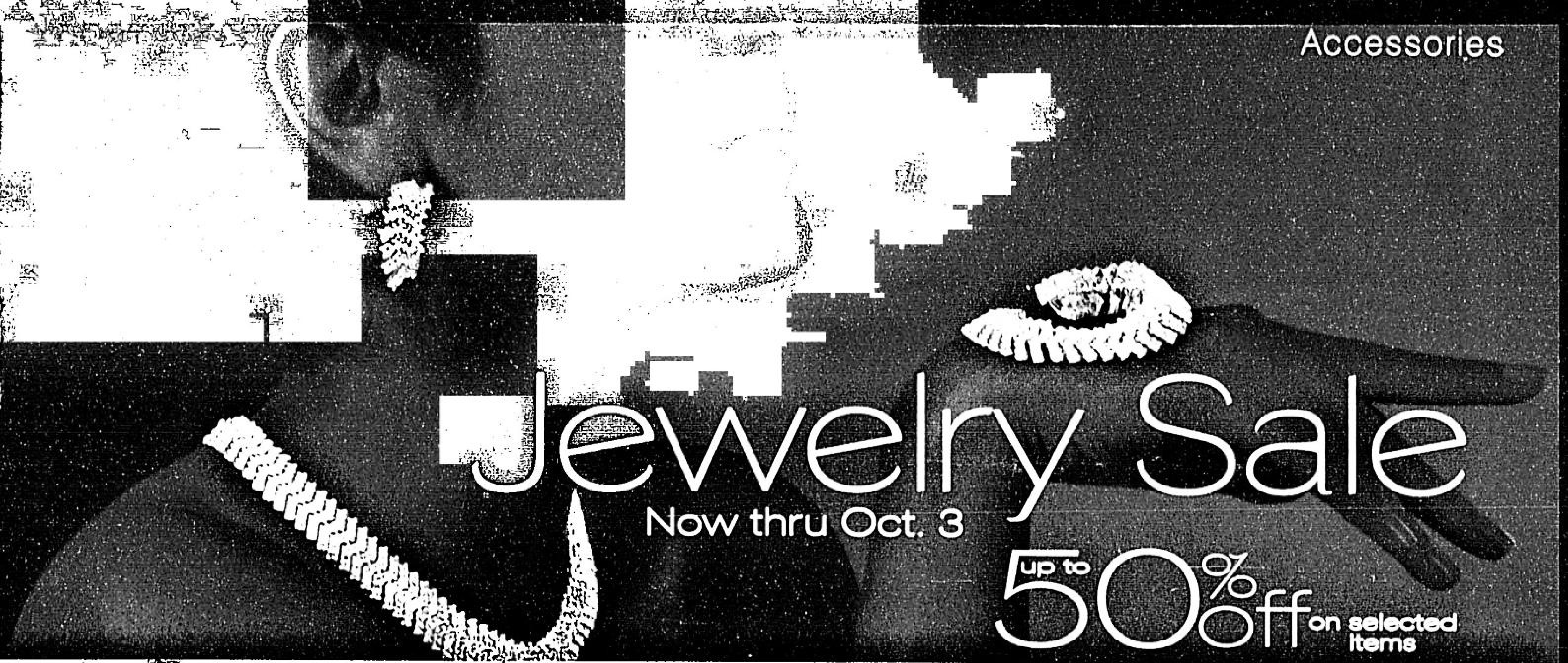
THE BLACK SHOP dress, P1,399; **JANYLIN** shoes, P2,495; Ms. Handbag Collection, P299.75, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**.

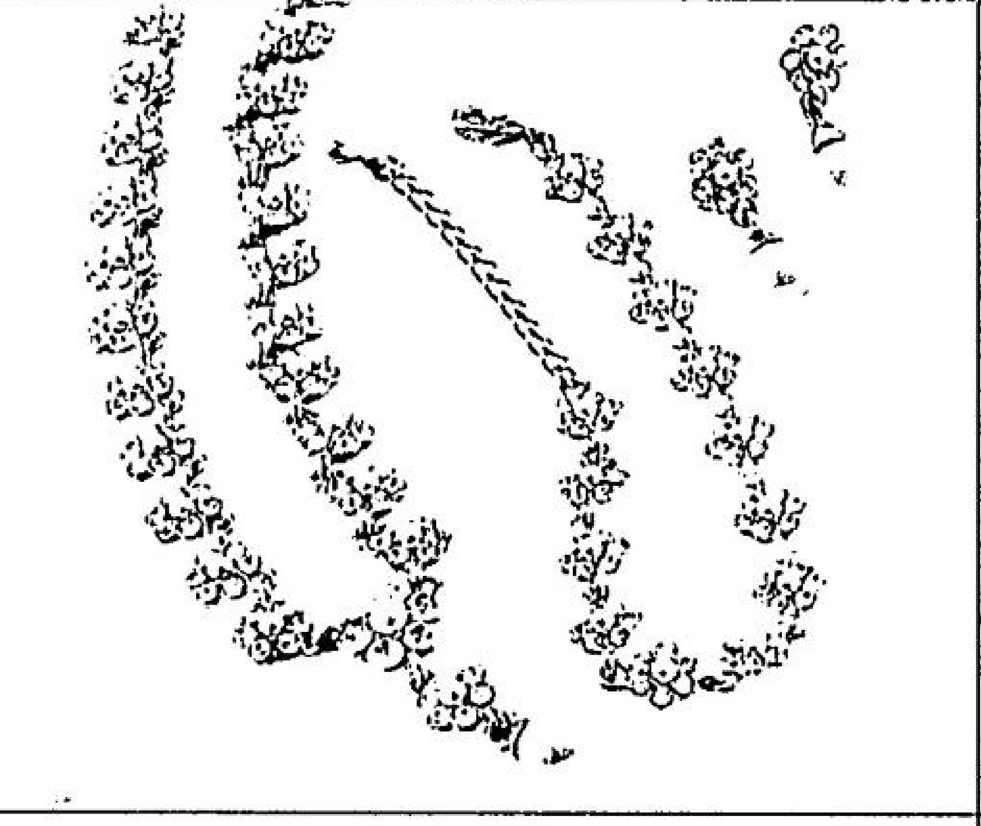
Hot Date

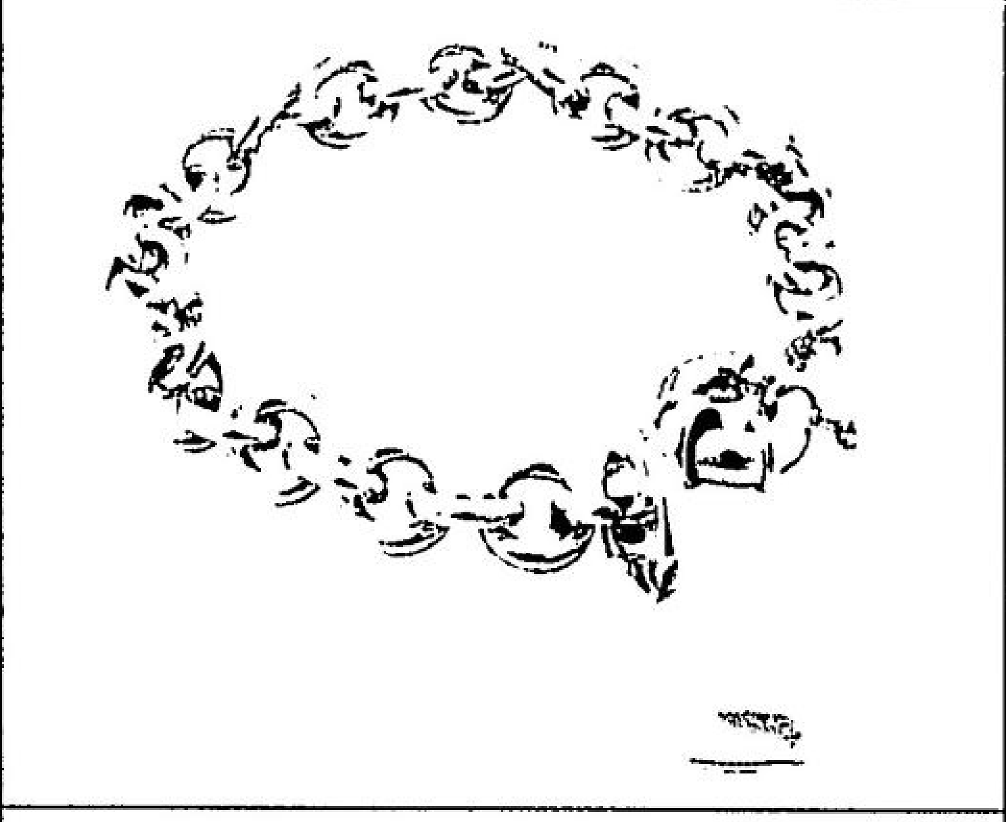
K2 dress, P590; Juan shoes, P995, **JANYLIN**; **THE BLACK SHOP** necklace, P399 each.

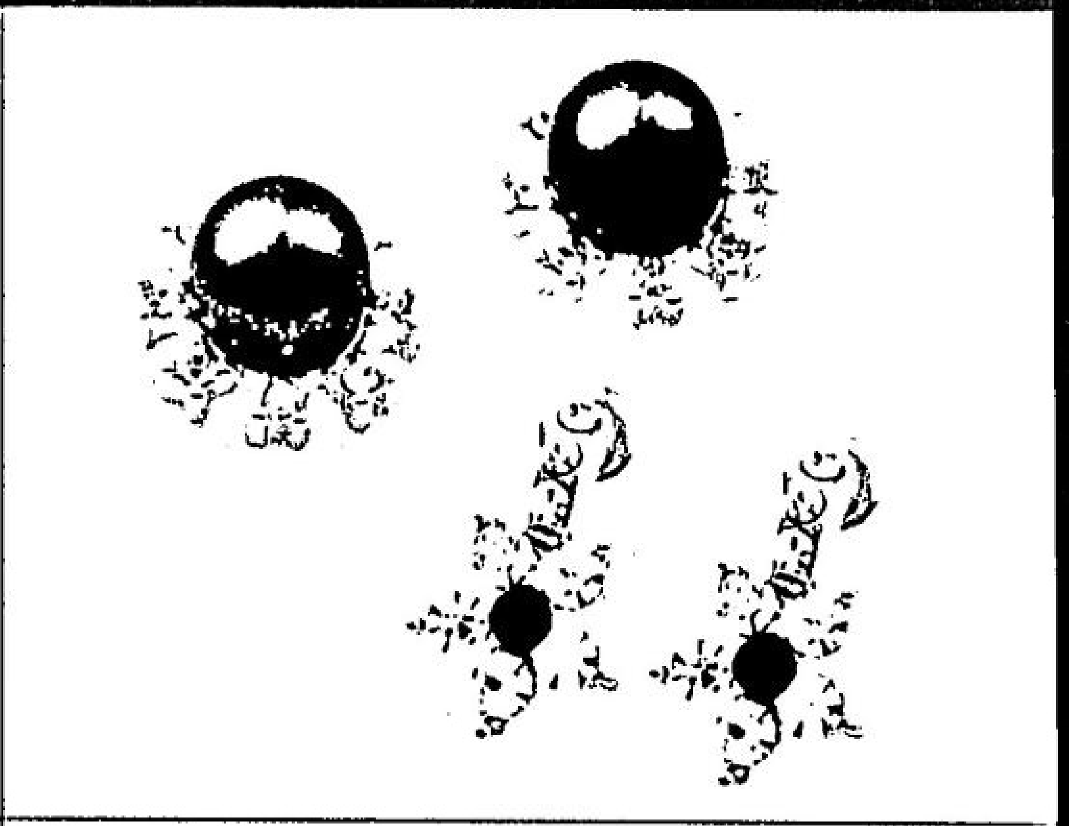
Gallery Opening

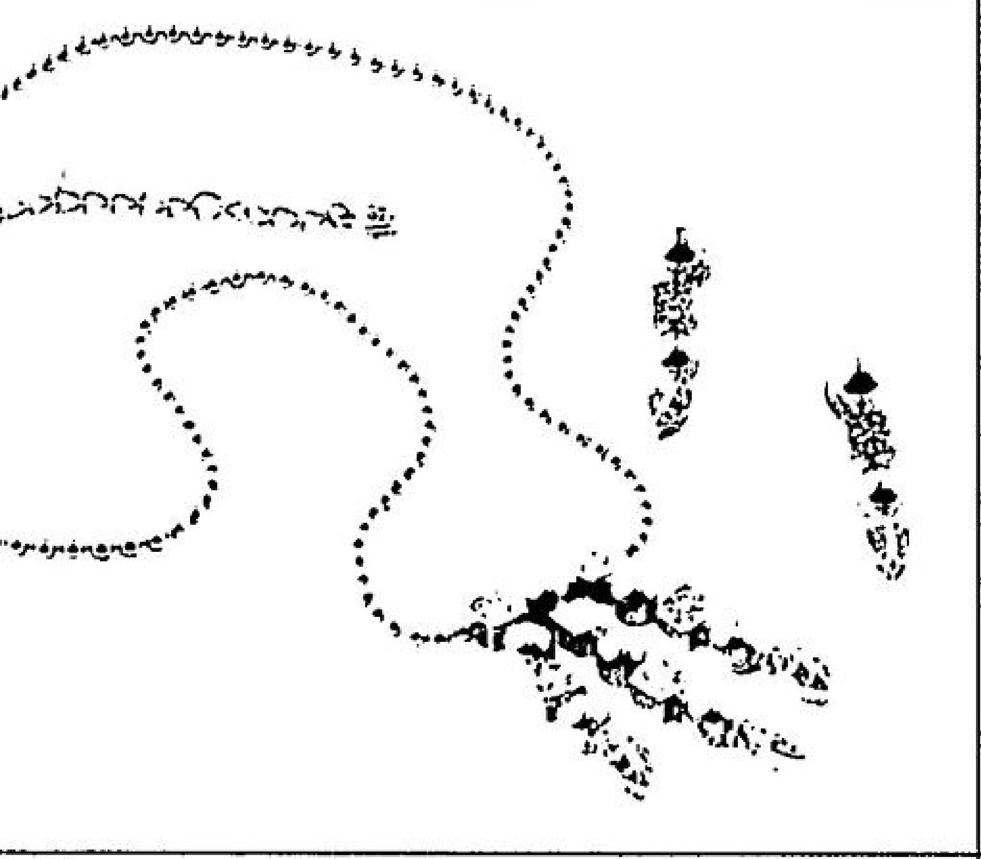
YRYS dress, P999; **JANYLIN** shoes, P1,995; **MIMI COSMETICS** necklace, P395; **THE BLACK SHOP** brooch, P1,199.

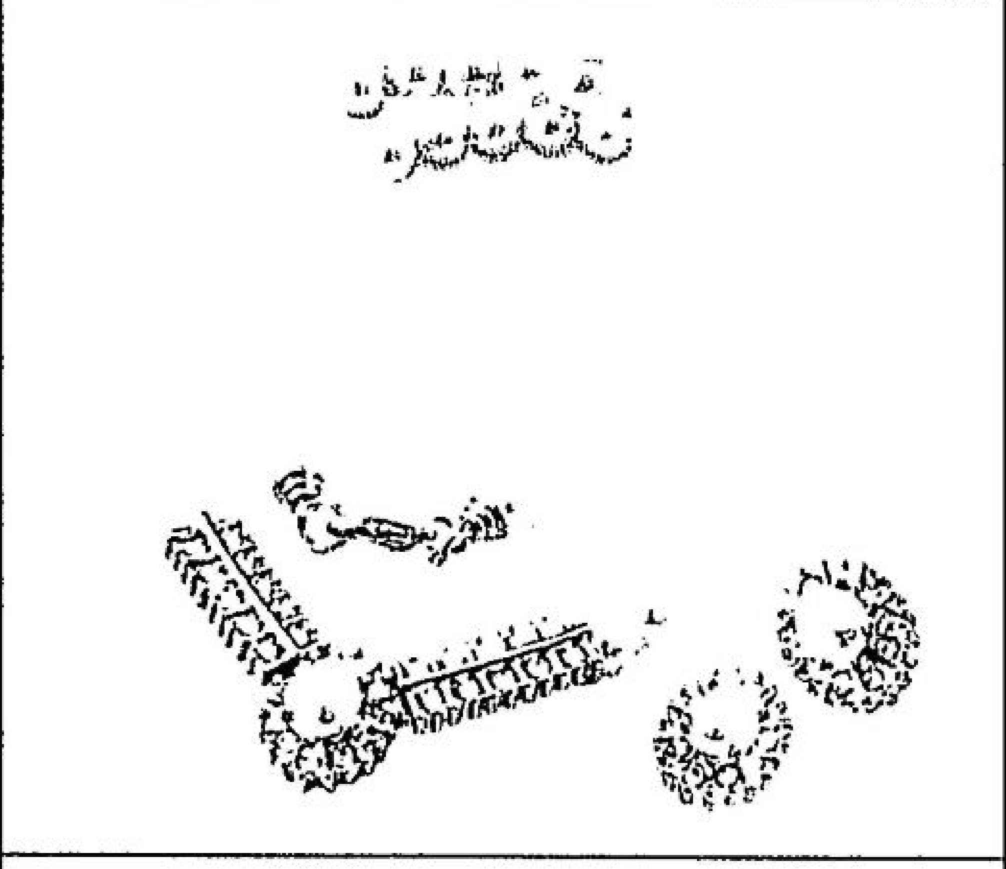

Accessories
Jewelry Sale
Now thru Oct. 3
up to 50% off on selected items

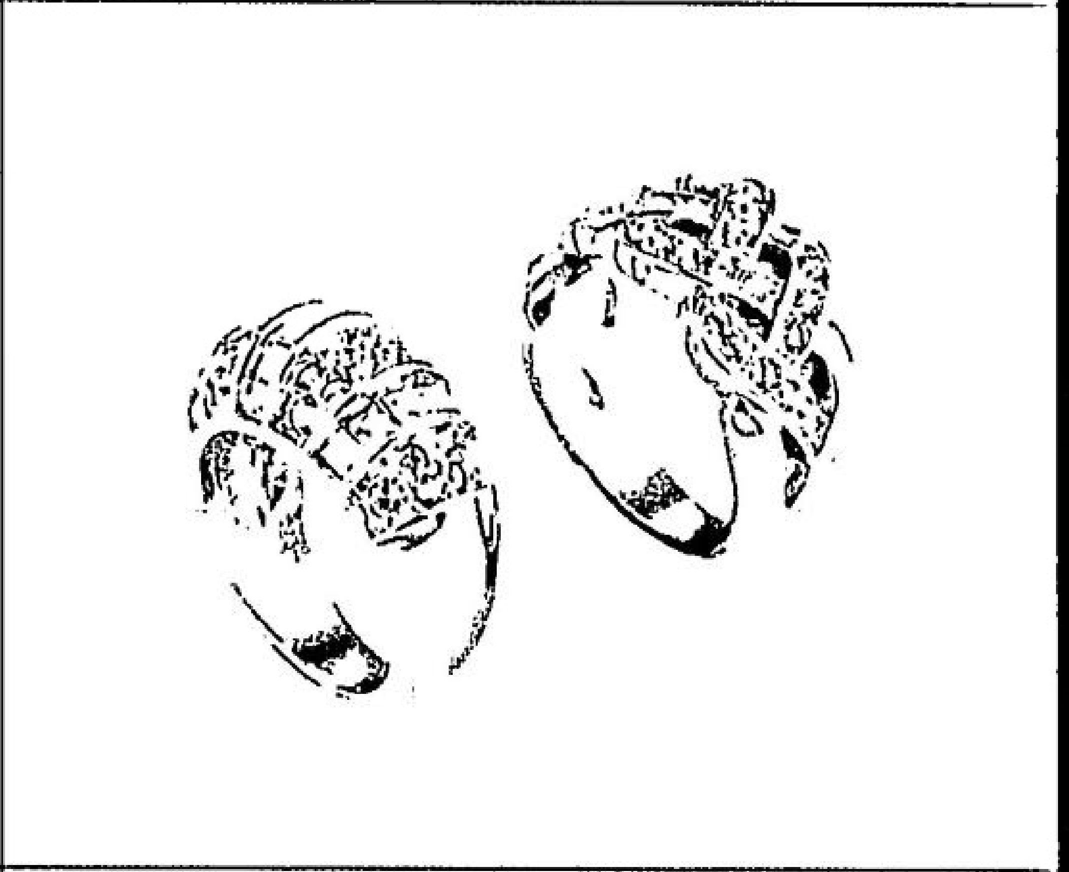


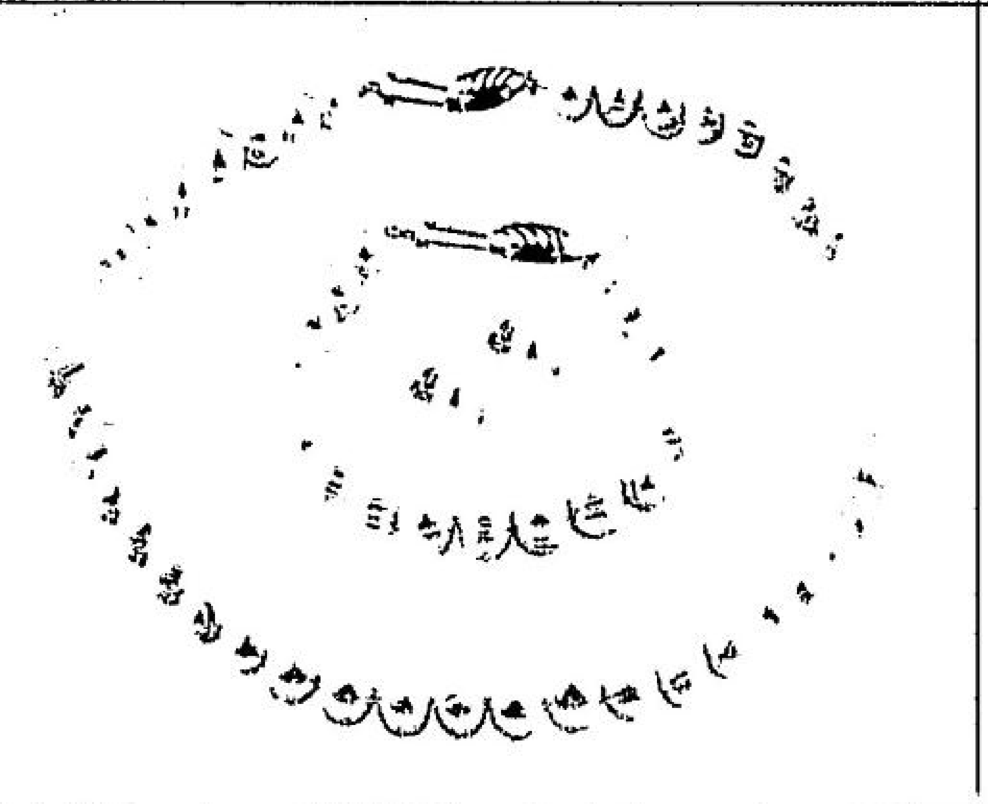












We've got it all for you!

SM

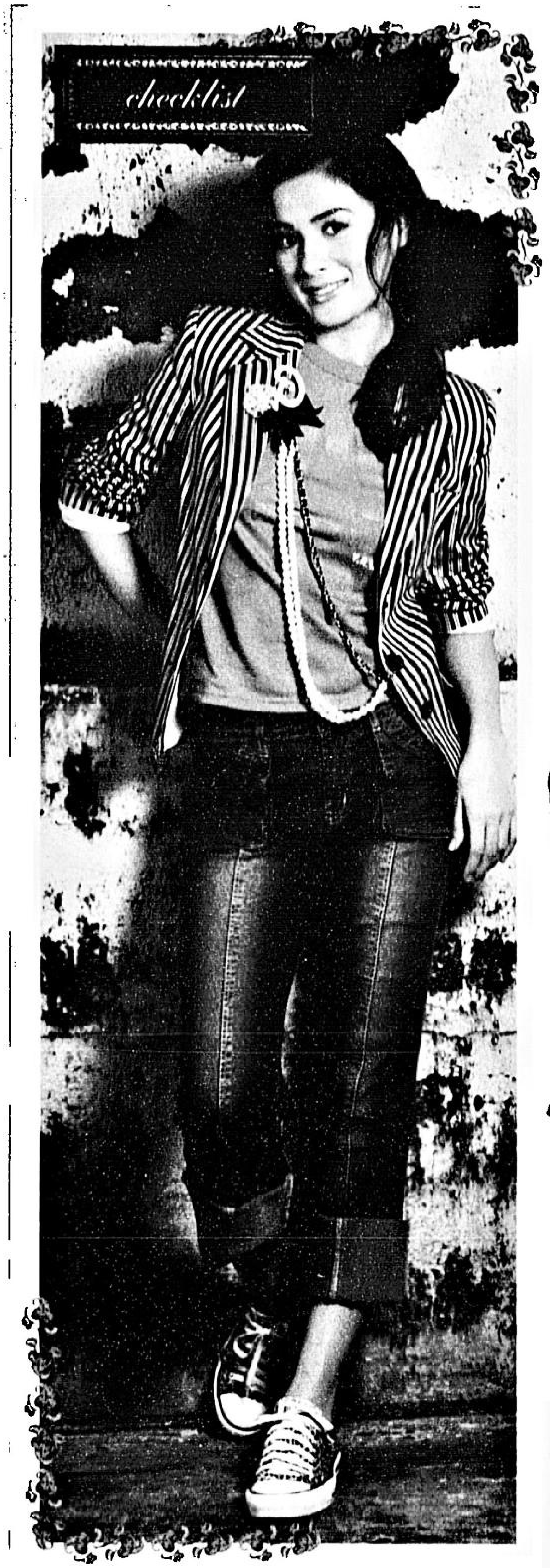
DEPARTMENT STORE

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4334 Series of 2004

**QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW •
MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS**

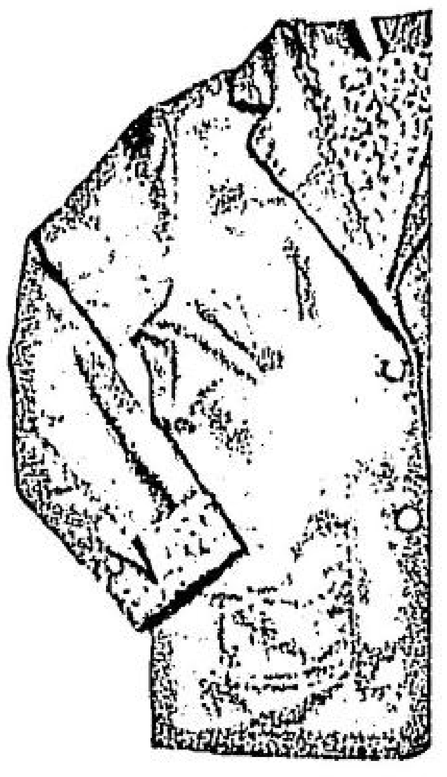
street chic

Nothing says street more than your favorite retro tee and cuffed jeans. Top it off with this season's hottest blazer and some bling for instant chic!

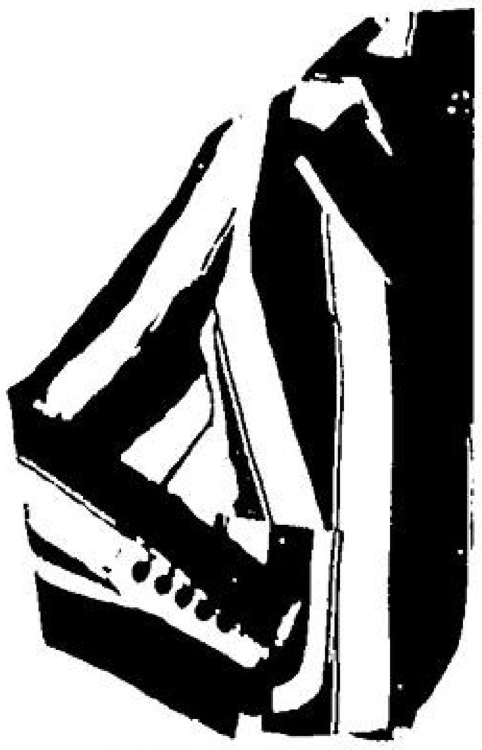


Photography **COI SAMOTH**
Styling **KATRINA CRUZ**
Hair and Makeup **BENJIE ANGELES**
Model **CHE RAM** of CalCarrie's International Models Philippines

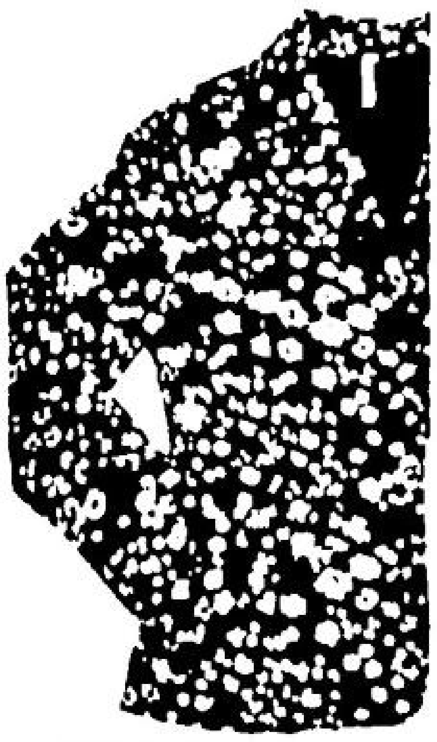
TOPSHOP blazer, P3,895
YRYS T-shirt, P199
1954 BAYO VINTAGE jeans, P1,195
Converse sneakers, P1,370, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**
MIMI COSMETICS brooch, P650 each, necklace (used on lapel), P550



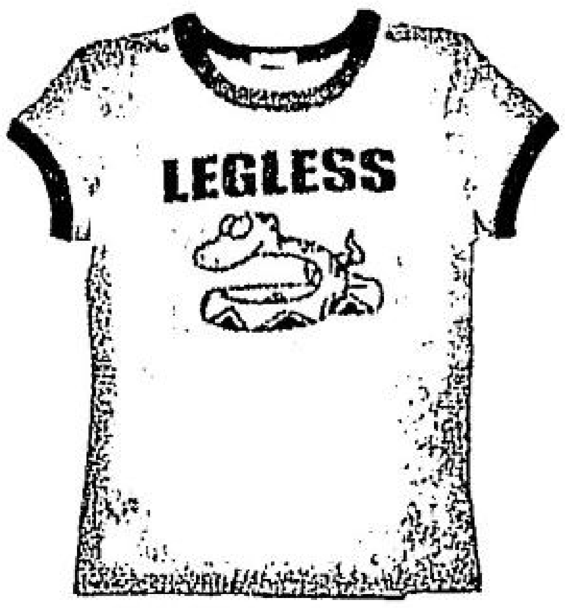
BE, P780



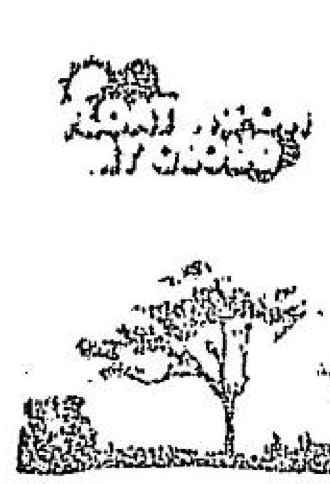
M, P2,999, **MANGO**



MIX CLOTHING, P1,700

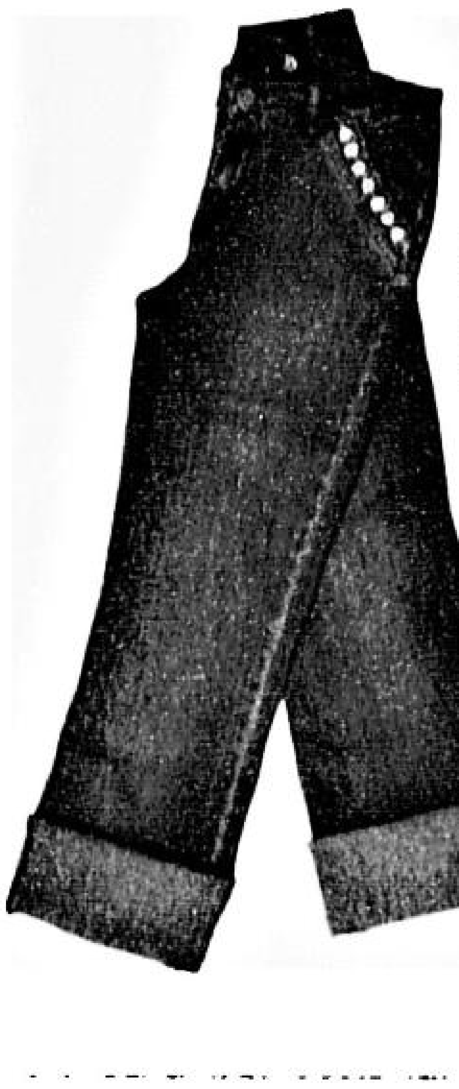


TOPSHOP, P1,095

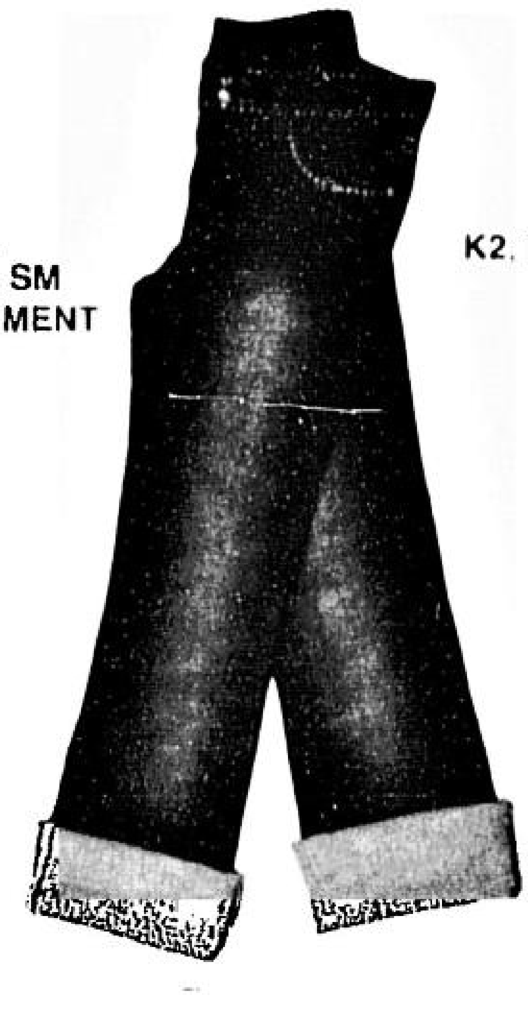


TOPSHOP, P1,095

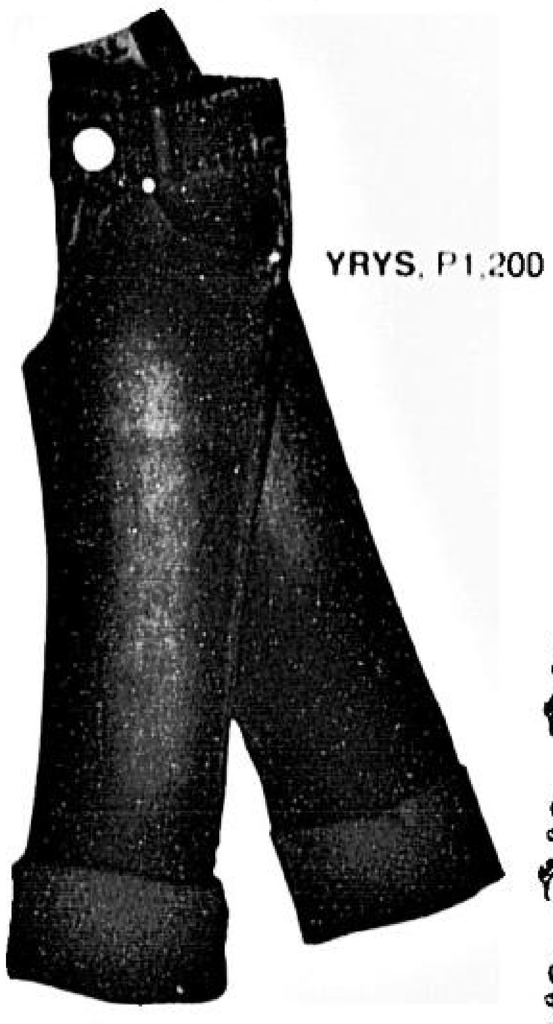
BAYO, P445



Brand G, P399.75, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**



K2, P950



YRYS, P1,200

Confessions of a bargain junkie

I got drenched in Bangkok, faced the biting cold of South Korea and got harassed by an Indian salesman in my search for the cheap and chic

By Pam Pastor

When the shopping gods came to the earth and bestowed purchasing magic upon the inhabitants of this world, I received the gift of bargain-hunting.

This gift has taken me on adventures in strange places.

My fondest visions of Beijing include panting up the Great Wall of China and shopping at Silk Alley where I bought three pairs of gorgeous boots for P700 each and a beautiful hand knitted stole with faux fur. It was there that I learned how to walk away after vendors name the price so they'll chase after you.

In India, I was blown away by the majestic Taj Mahal – and by how unbelievably affordable the jewelry was in Jaipur. I bought a dozen pairs of earrings – old silver set with semi-precious stones. Don't be afraid to ask for major discounts in India. Always bring pens – Indian salesmen accept them in exchange for a discount.

My best Singapore bargain is the blue poncho-like top I found at This Fashion in Lucky Plaza. I've had it for two years and people still come up to ask where I got it. It's my magic shirt, it's brought wonderful things to my life. Not a bad deal for P300. Patience was a primary tool during my hunt in Singapore. Dig through bargain bins, go through endless racks. The perfect dress could be waiting for you under a pile of rags.

During a junket in Hong Kong, we were set loose in Mongkok. While other Asian journalists walked back carrying one or two packages, I was bogged down with so many bags that I could hardly walk. They had to rush forward to help me. That, for me, was power shopping.

I faced the biting cold of December in South Korea and I had windburn, painful knees and chunky colorful bracelets and necklaces to show for it.

It was raining sheets during the one day I spent in Bangkok. The downpour didn't stop my search. I got drenched for printed boxers for my brother, two pairs of sandals - one was made of soft suede with pretty ankle straps (P250 each) and three bags (P300 each). I had no complaints.

Indeed, the world is a giant treasure trove of bargains – if you know where and how to look. You don't even have to leave your comfort zone. Our country is a haven for affordable purchases.

I remember making a cabbie drive around Cebu, armed with website printouts, searching for Avatar accessories. When we finally found them at a hotel gift shop, I was ecstatic. Who wouldn't be, after finding exquisite dangling earrings for just P40?

Before leaving Palawan one summer, we found a wonderful souvenir shop beside the airport. Stocking up on hippie accessories (P10 to P30) almost caused us to miss our flight.

Manila is every shopaholic's dream – and not just because of midnight sales. Good deals can be found outside the malls too - in Divisoria, Tutuban, Central Market and Quiapo. The bazaars are also havens for the discount-happy. They've sprouted all over the city like 7-Elevens.

Cheap but chic finds can hit you unexpectedly. Last year, because of the horrible flood, I slept at the office for four nights. Running out of things to wear, I walked to Shopwise where I found fab P120-shirts that I still wear today.

If you're not averse to secondhand items, check out the ukay-ukay stalls. With patience, you'll find great – and even branded – stuff. My favorite ones are in Ortigas, Cubao and Kalentong. One time, I bought 24 items - including a sheer black hooded cover-up, a very Down With Love plaid trench, a metallic blue trench, a blue suede coat, a fleece-lined old rose printed jacket and three pairs of boots - for P1400. After that mad hunt, my allergies acted up but I felt triumphant.

Bargain-hunters must make sacrifices but you have to know when to draw the line. I learned that lesson the hard way.

A salesman in Jaipur - an Indian version of David Arquette minus all the showers - was charging P2500 for four pairs of beaded slip-ons. "Forget it," I said. He chased after me. "One thousand," I said. He refused but kept following me before finally giving in. But my bargain triumph turned into sexual harassment. As he reached for the bills in my hand, Mr. Salesman tried to cop a feel and asked me for a kiss. Outraged, I screamed, grabbed a companion and made a mad dash for our bus.

When my mom tried on her new slip-ons and asked, "How much were these?"

I said, "You don't want to know."

On the upside, I bought those slip-ons back in 2001 and duplicates have started appearing in local stores only now.

Yes, I am a bargain junkie – and extreme weather conditions, difficult vendors and even that maniac can't cure this addiction.

queens of chic

Follow the lead of the queens of chic as they break convention to play up the classics.

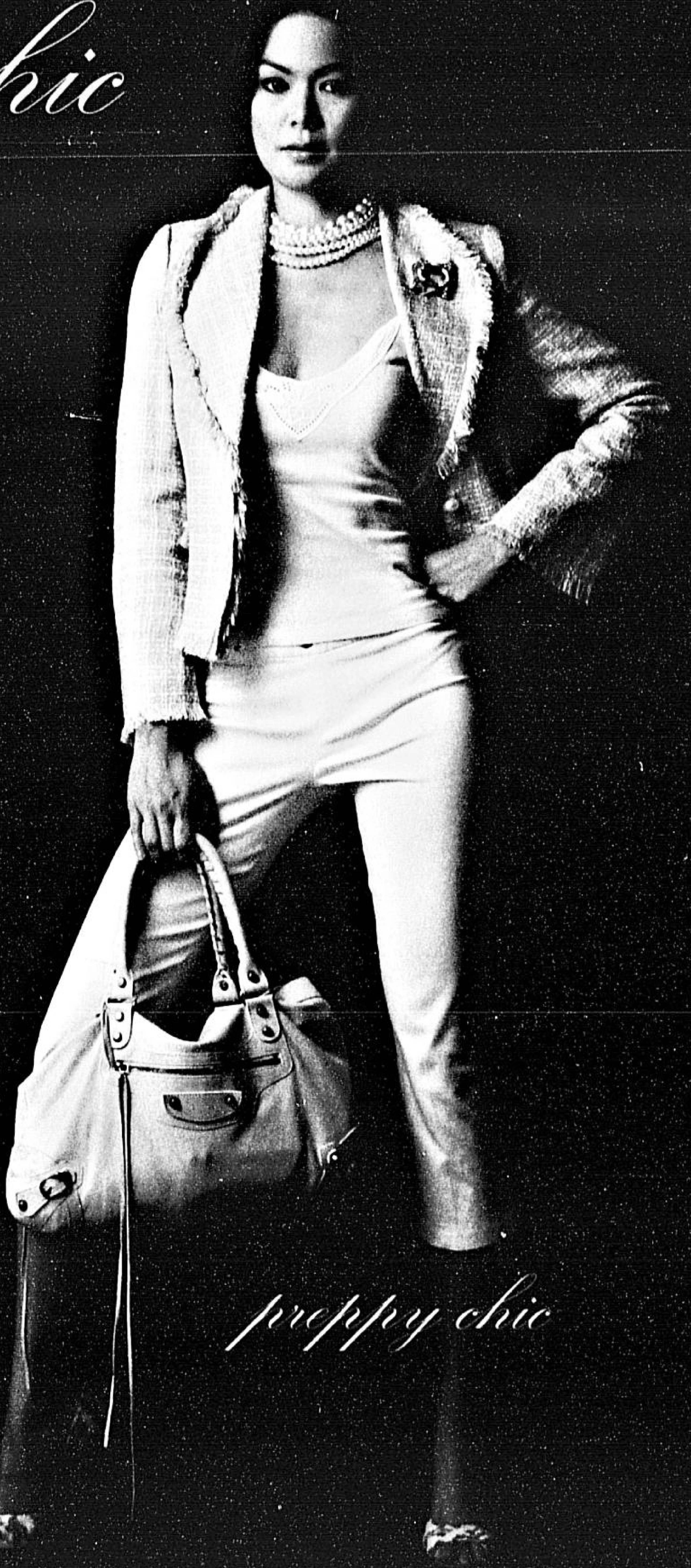
Photography **MARK NICDAO**
· Hair and Makeup **BENJIE ANGELES**

apples sadwahni

Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer

Being preppy chic means...
dressing in an subtle and effortless but appropriate manner, no matter the occasion or the mood.
The preppy chic's shopping ritual includes...
investing in classic or fashionable pieces but avoiding ultra trendy things that scream "FASHION VICTIM"!
The top 5 preppy chic must-haves are...
slim fit polo shirts ala Lacoste or Ralph Lauren, loafers or ballerina flats, pearls strands and/or studs, a light tweed jacket, a little black dress ala Audrey Hepburn.
A preppy chic gal should never leave home without...
pearls
A preppy chic gal is always...
well-groomed (neat, clean, sweet smelling) and well-mannered (think Charlotte in Sex and the City but a less inhibited version).
But never...
dirty, disheveled and offensive (think Courtney Love).
The preppy chic golden rule is...
dress comfortably and effortlessly but neatly at all times.
Preppy chic words to live by:
Understated elegance is key.

On Apples: **MANGO** top, Apples' own; **MIMI COSMETICS** blazer, P1,995; **TYLER** pants, P1,450; **ARDEN B.** shoes, **BALENCIAGA** bag, both Apples' own; **MIMI COSMETICS** necklace, P550; Brooch, from her mom. Inset photo: Culte Femme top, P995, **RUSTAN'S**; Pants, P2,249, shoes, P2,999, both from **MANGO**; **TYLER** bag, P1,850; Get Happy bag charm, to order from Happy David.



preppy chic

quirky chic

liza ilarde

Editor in chief, Mega Magazine

Being quirky chic means...
It's all about contrast. It means taking pieces that don't normally go together and somehow making them work. It's combining prints, clashing colors, mixing moods—but not all at the same time, mind you!

The quirky chic's shopping ritual includes...
going to a sale on the last day and buying what nobody else wants—that way, nobody else has it!

The top 5 quirky chic must-haves are...
- skirts in a fun print or an interesting texture
- cropped jackets in a saturated color or a unique fabric
- mom's vintage purse
- shoes (heels or flats) with unusual details (and never in black!)
- costume jewelry mixed in with the real thing

A quirky chic gal should never leave home without...
her sense of humor.

A quirky chic gal is always...
on the lookout for one-of-a-kind items or accessories.

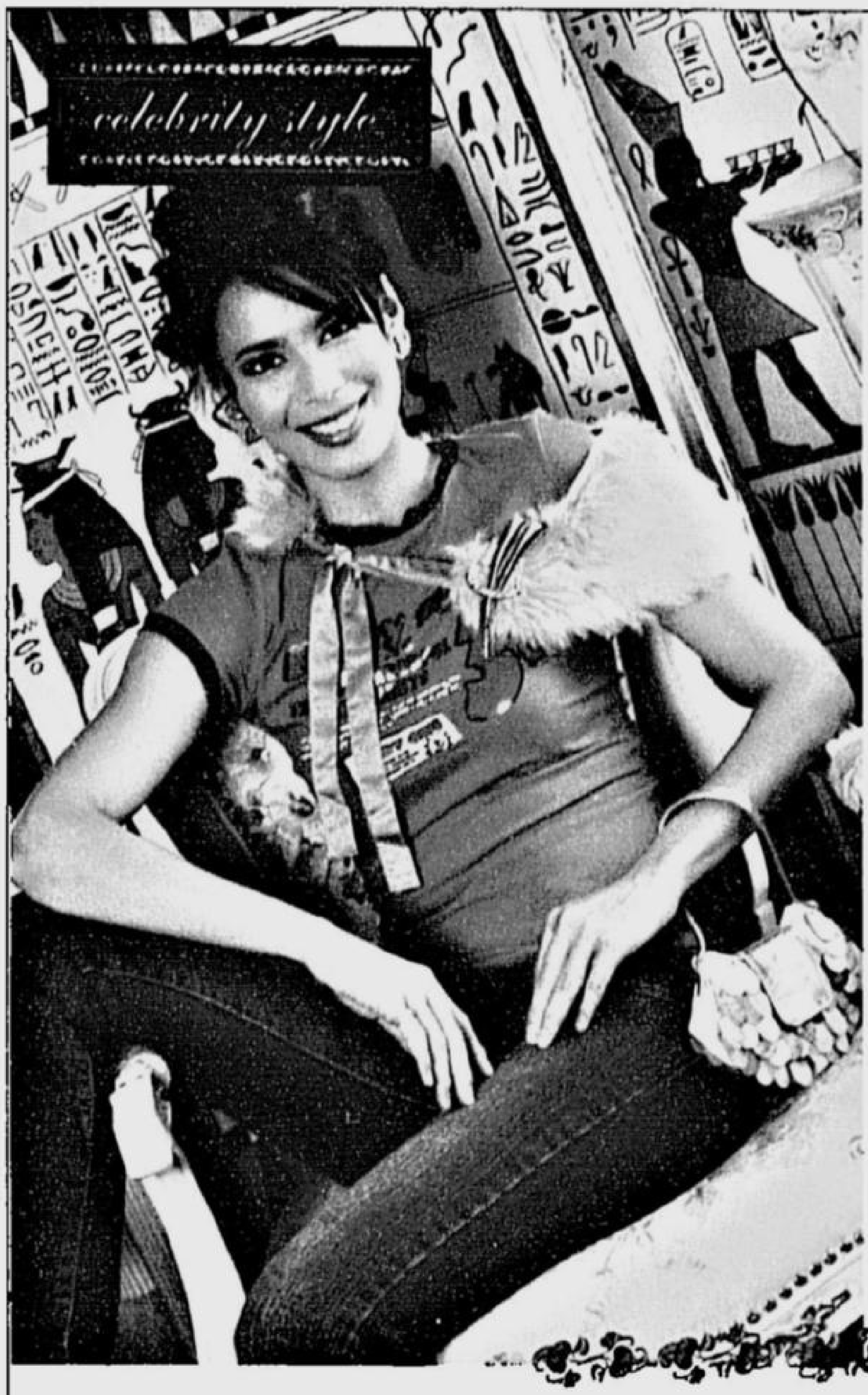
But never...
can afford it!

The quirky chic golden rule is...
always mix, never match!

Quirky chic words to live by:
Mixing prints and clashing colors may be dizzying for some, but the trick is to keep the silhouette of your clothes classic and streamlined. I, for one, don't like clothes that require instructions or that need adjusting every five minutes—I have no time! But most of all, have fun with fashion. Don't take it so seriously. They're only clothes!

On Liza: Longsleeves, P795, sweater, P975, both from **BAYO**; **BENCH** pants, P499.75; **ADOREE** shoes, Liza's own; Brooches, price available upon request, all from **RHETT EYALA**; **ANNE KLEIN** vintage bag, from her mom. Inset photo: **POWERPUFF** tank top, Liza's own; **BENCH** trench coat, P699.75; **YRYS** skirt, P1,100; Parisian Jr., shoes, P349.75, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE**; Bag, P769, pins, P100 each, all from **BENCH**; **GET HAPPY** bag charm, Liza's own.

celebrity style



Fabulously chic

With runway stints, hosting *F* and acting gigs, Angel Aquino runs from one shop to another, down the catwalk, and up the silver screen with remarkable ease and grace

Photography **TOM EPPERSON**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Makeup **LEO POSADAS** of Essensuals by Toni & Guy
Hair **RICKY SON**
Shot on location at **Masterpiece Furniture & Interiors by Simbulan**

On Angel:
MANGO T-shirt, P999
FREEWAY jeans, P1,095
ARANAZ MANILA bag, price available upon request
Earrings, P299.75
Brooch, P399.75
Both from **MARCELLA**
MANGO faux fur, P2,999 (part of a sweater)

Cold cash or burn plastic?
Cash! I hate it when you accumulate bills from credit cards.
Shop all you can or go back for seconds?
Back for seconds. It's just more exciting.
Savvy investor or bargain junkie?
Definitely a bargain junkie because it just gives more value to your money. I love the ukay-ukay!
Best investment piece bought?
Lime green pumps from NINEWEST.
Store you'd like to raid?
PRADA! I like their style and they have very intelligent pieces.
Best bargain piece bought?
Two UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON trench coats I bought at an ukay-ukay in Baguio for only P150 each.
Favorite upgrade piece?
My JEWELMER pearl necklace. It always makes you look classy.
Shopping destination for bargain hunting?
Greenhills bazaars! It's open the whole year round.
Bargain hunting method?
When I'm lazy, I buy the first item I find, but I tend to regret that compulsive purchase afterwards.
Bargain shopping rule?
If you're not sure you want something, sleep it off. If it haunts you in your dreams, then go back for it to silence your urges.

animal instinct

trend spotting

Heed the call of the wild with this season's round-toe flats and exquisite handbags in snake or ostrich skin

TOD'S

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

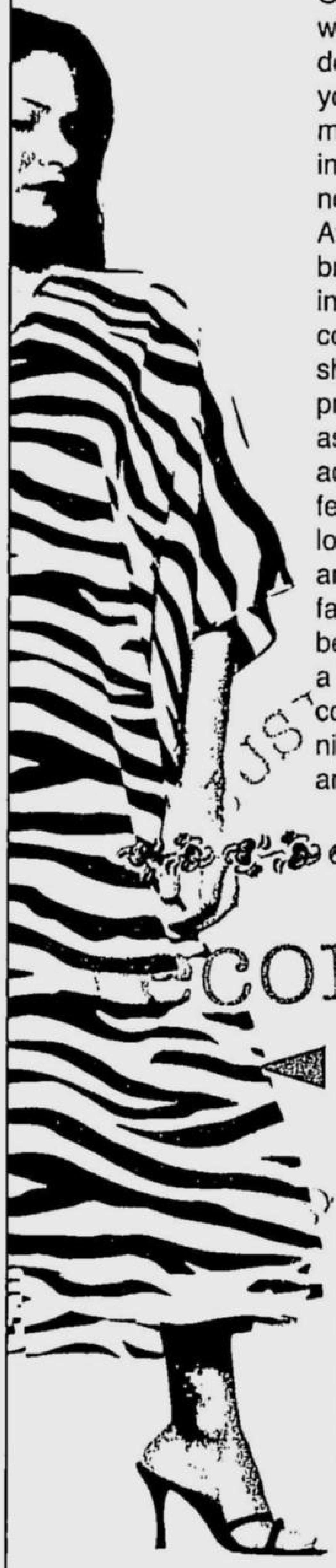
DKNY

BOTTEGA VENETA

JUST SHOP *recommends*

Avon

One of the things that women really wish for is an automated closet that decides and sets out clothes for you even before you wake up in the morning. But this will have to remain in our wish list for some time. For now, let's settle for the next best thing: Avon Color My Lip Miracle. Its smart breakthrough intuitive technology intrinsically adjusts to what lips need. It contains new films that build exceptional shine and hydrophobic pigments that provide long wear with comfort, as well as liquiwax esters and gelled jojoba that add a cushioned and ultra-moisturized feel. You no longer have to settle for a long lasting lipstick that tends to be dry and heavy; or a high shine lipstick that fades away in no time. It combines the best of everything women want most in a lipstick—superior shine, unbeatable color, matchless moisture, and day to night wear. Enjoy the power of choice and enjoy the power to have it all.



Natori

Set aside your PJs and track pants. There's a new silhouette reining the bedroom lounge. Natori's Fall '04 collection reinterprets romantic elements in vibrant colors, bold fresh prints and soft and silky fabrics. The Art Deco inspired collection is a tasteful mix of glamour and style, men-inspired prints with hints of feminine overtones creating a luxurious feel for in and out of the bedroom.

FREE TRIAL WORK OUT

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Please call our fitness hotline at (63-2) 8873533 to avail of this promo

FREE NUTRACELL FACE

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blush hour
YOUR HOUR OF HEAVENLY TREATS

BIG
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Be one of the first 50 people to present this coupon, and get 10% off on cash purchases & 5% discount on card purchases for regular Bella Couture items.

Blush Hour, 2nd Floor, Lifestyle Section, Powerplant Mall,
Rockwell Center.

Valid from September 30 to October 15, 2004.

GODIVA

10% OFF
on all products and services!

Valid only at
SM City Fairview-Annex, Upper Ground Level
until December 31, 2004

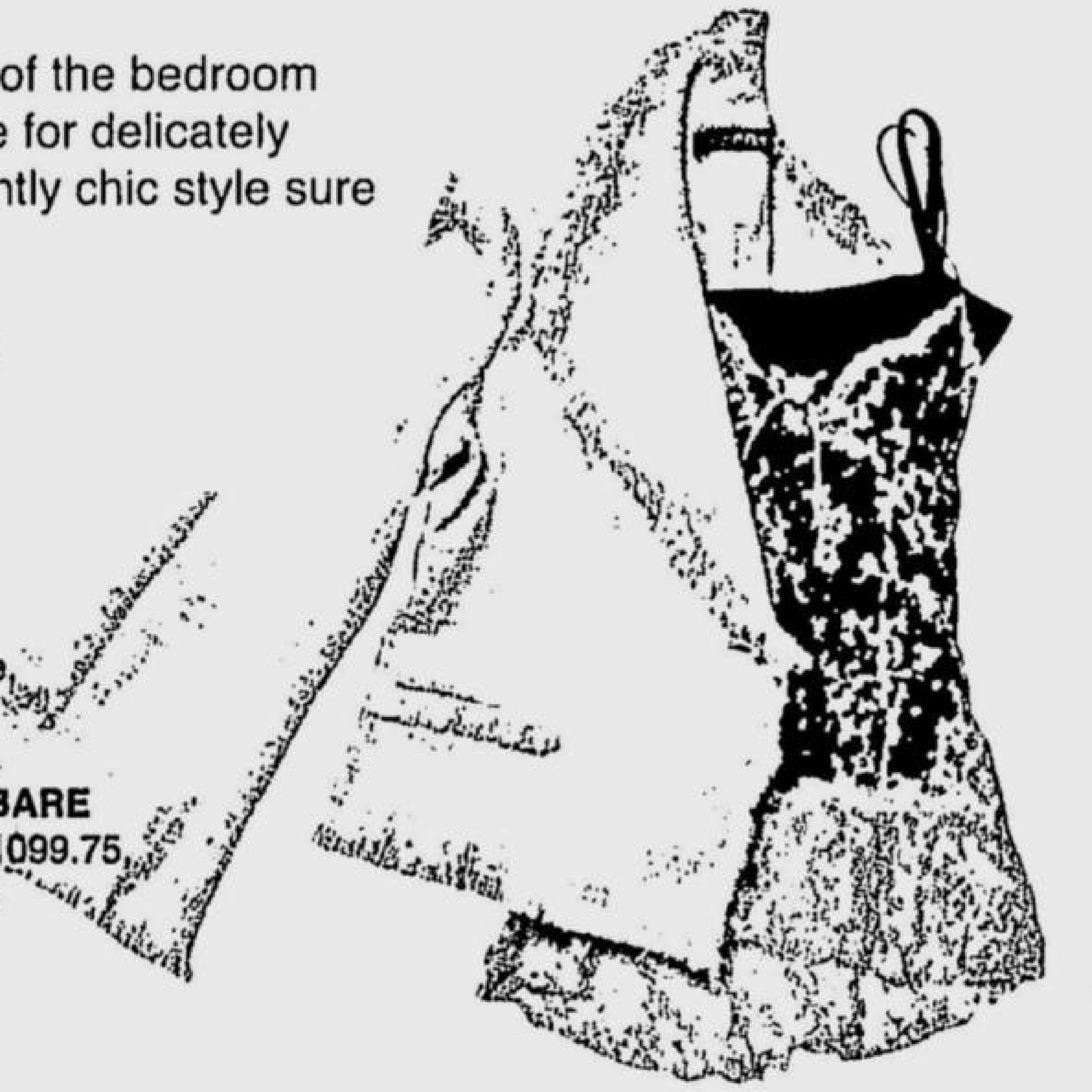
* Not valid in conjunction with other promo

workbook

under-statements

Take your lingerie out of the bedroom and into the workplace for delicately comfortable yet elegantly chic style sure to make heads turn

Photography **COI SAMOTH**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**



Shirley of Hollywood lingerie, P1,900 (bottom not shown)
Sugar tank top, P300
Both from **BETTER THAN BARE**
Appar Collections blazer, P1099.75,
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

BENCH_BODY tank top, P299.75
Appar Collections blazer, P1099.75,
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

designer's feature

PUEY QUINONES

Designer

Signature style: Creations with different shapes and a lot of volume, think Issey Miyake meets Rei Kawakubo with a Versace twist!

JUST SHOP says... We like-y!

Inspiration: Beggar meets jetsetter

Where to find him: Unit 10-1 Classica Tower 2, 114 H. V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati

How much: P5,000 and up

we love we love we love we love ‘em!

GROOVY ANNE by RUBYANNE PANLILIO-BAUTISTA

Signature style: Casual chic with glitz and glamour

Inspiration: A play of colors and anything that catches my eye can become an inspiration to create a one of a kind masterpiece.

JUST SHOP says... We're addicted to it!

Where to find her: By appointment 0917-5372131

How much: Starts from P1000 depending on the design and embellishments

VIKTOR JEANS by INO CALUZA

Jeans maker

Signature style: Understated classic tailoring with utilitarian modern details with materials made of the highest quality – from the custom made rivets and buttons, jeans fabric and signature cotton red pocket. And of course, the fit is the mantra. Viktor aesthetic is 100% pure jeans. No exaggerated washes and design details. Just the fit and form. Fitter. Richer. Happier!

Inspiration: Architectural detailing of a Frank Gehry building or a Calatrava bridge, Japan meets London street vibe, the tailoring of Marghiela and a Hedi Slimane obsession with fit.

JUST SHOP says... perfection!

Where to find him: By appointment at Megaplaza Condominium, Cityland Building, Ortigas Center,

How much: Starts from P3000 depending on the style and fabric

Product photography **COI SAMOTH**

high impact chic

Want to be a SHOE in for style? Can't figure out how to BAG the latest look? See your friends take their HATS off to your fab flair? Then let's BROOCH the subject and allow me, a certified accessories aficionada, to maneuver you through the world of shopping thrills and frills! So girls, get ready to BLING IT ON!

Photography **MARK NICDAO**
Styling **AMINA ARANAZ**
Hair and Make-up **BENJIE ANGELES**
Model **ALEXI ALUNAN** of Admate

bling it on

by Amina Aranaz

Hang, pin and tie! Heaping ways to make your white tee and jeans chic to the hilt!

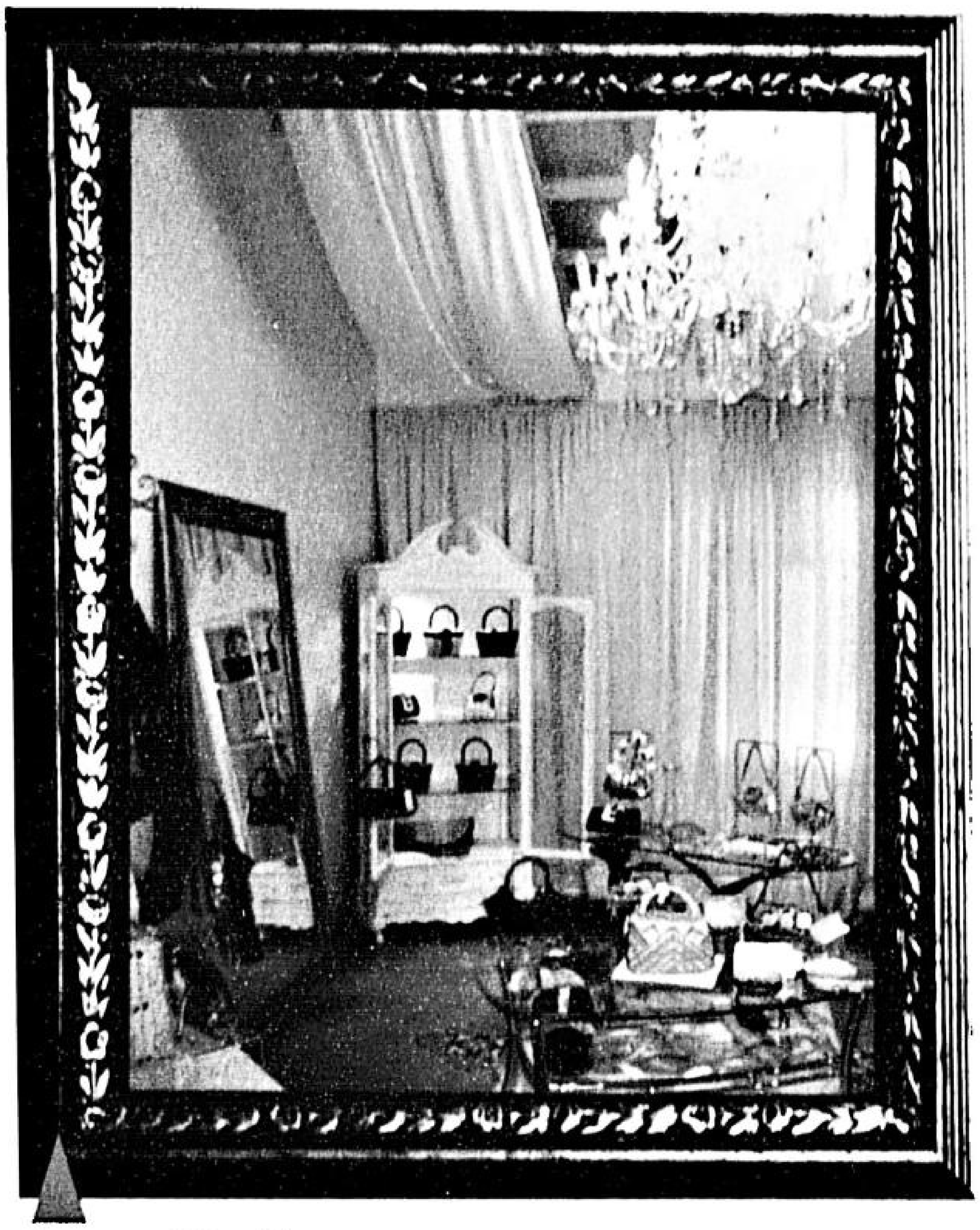
1) Accessorize with a highly adorned bag. Decorate it with charms, trinkets and even earrings.
2) Pile on necklaces of varying sizes and lengths. The trendiest looks? Big medallions, long chains, and sparkling gems—real and faux.
3) Go for stunning rhinestone-encrusted sandals. DIY: Embellish shoes with jeweled brooches.

1
SOUK tank top, P1,450
FREEWAY jeans, P875
GIRL SHOPPE bag, P850
CMG earrings (as bag ornament), P599
SOUK flower brooch, P1,250
CMG butterfly brooch, P575
Pin, P108, Bracelet, P395
Both from **CLASSIC CHARMZ**
CMG ring, P359
FINO LEATHERWARE keychain, P190

2
Lewre shoes, P1,350
Brooch, P1,450
Both from **CMG**

3
FINO LEATHERWARE bag, P4,750
CELINE shoes, P899
Flower brooch, P685
Earring, P118 (part of a set)
Both from **CRYSTAL CHARMZ**
White keychain, P475
Yellow keychain, P275
Both from **FINO LEATHERWARE**

4
CMG resin medallion, P629
Crystal choker, P785
Art Deco style pendant, P895
Silver ring pendant, P895
All from **CLASSIC CHARMZ**



Aranaz Manila

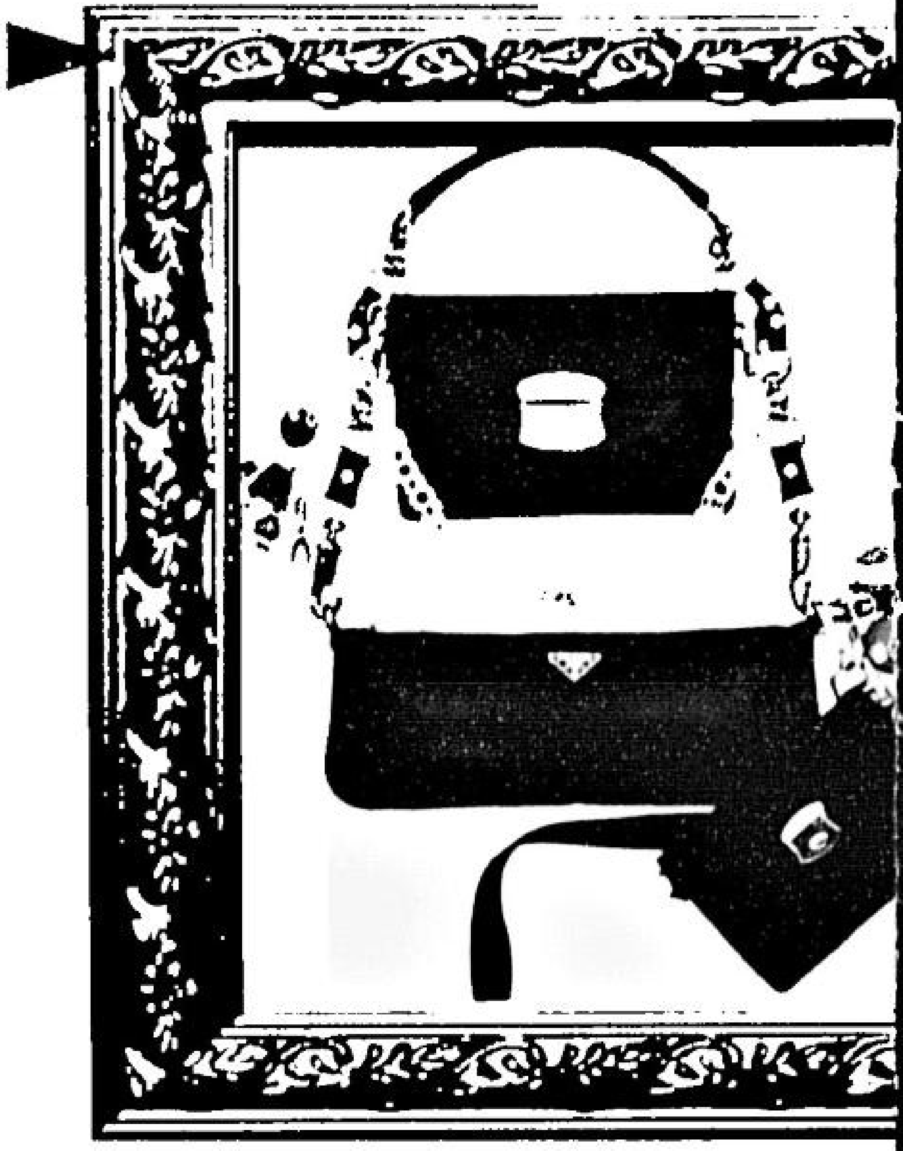
Calling all bagaholics! **ARANAZ MANILA** – the feminine, fabulous, Filipino brand finally has a home! Look out for a bright pink wall and enter a treasure trove of chic purses and eye-catching totes! Stocks are limited so don't just walk...Run to the 2nd level of Citi Golg Plaza, Julia Vargas St., Pasig. Contact 0917-5293828 for inquiries.

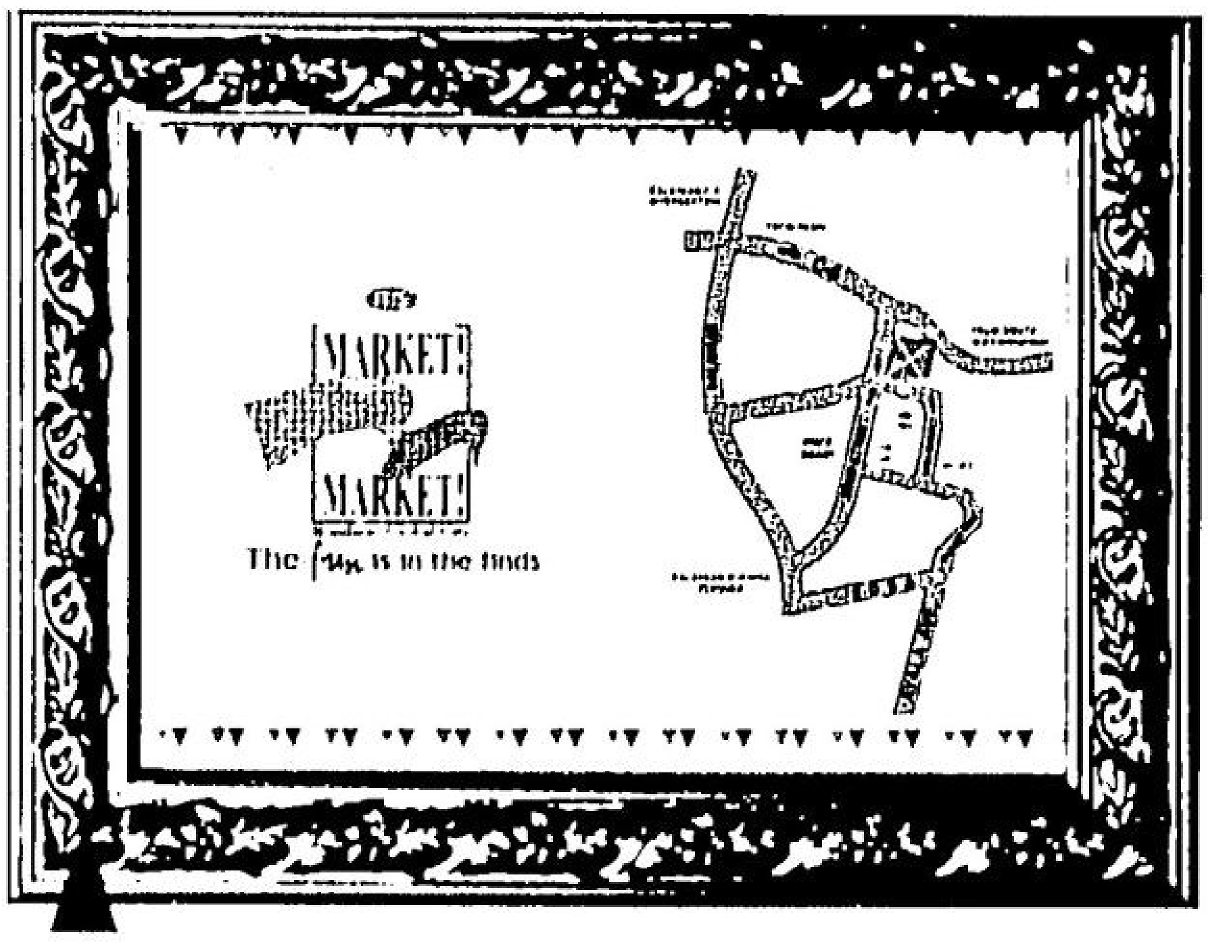
The Body Shop

When images of 1950s screen sirens pop up we never fail to stop and take notice. We all are envious of the strong, smoldering sexy eyes of Brigitte Bardot or the glossy, sexy pout of Marylin Monroe. So make it your own. Exude that demure and playful look or transform into a sultry vixen with **THE BODY SHOP** Seductive Now Autumn Make-Up Collection. Get your glamour fix with Duo Eye Colour and Lip Gloss Tubes. Are you ready for your close-up.

Prada

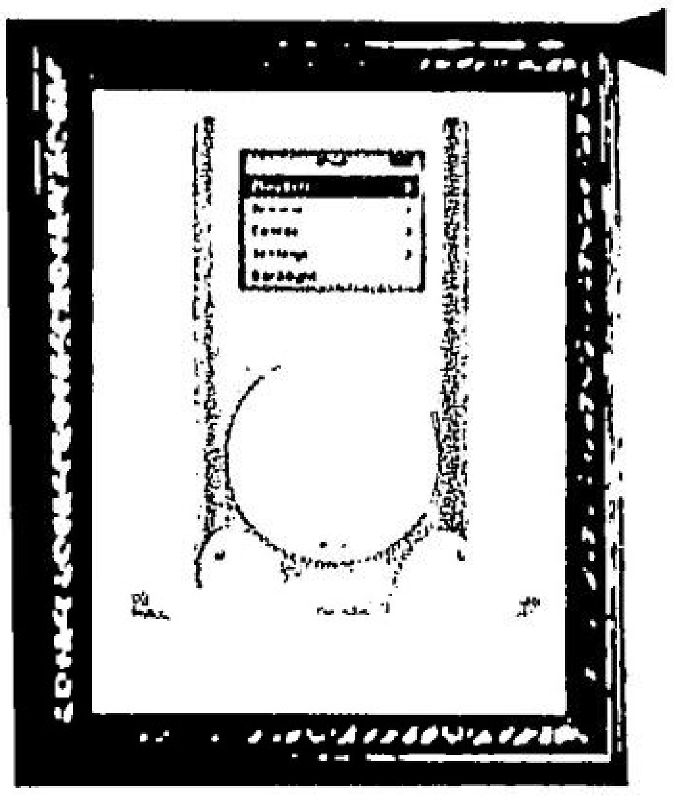
We've loved Prada for its subtle elegance and sophistication. Its Autumn/Winter 2004-05 collection displays rich decorations and numerous details – elegant and refined crocodile skin handbags and brushed leather pouches are stylized with fun accents of toy robots (JUST SHOP's favorite!) and pistols. Its neo-retro shapes and interchangeable handles reveal functionality and remains at the forefront of her designs, and infusing a more flamboyant play of textures, technology, and cultural influence to provide masculinity a luxurious feminine twist.





Market! Market!

We've died and gone to shopping heaven! Ayala Land Corporation opens Market! Market!, the biggest, yet chicest bargain-hunters paradise. It offers the unique, budget-friendly shopping experience that can be found in the likes of Tutuban, Greenhills and Banawe but all in the comfort and convenience of a shopping center. Open on Thursdays to Sundays from 10am to 8pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 9pm at the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. See you there!



iPod mini

As tempting as the forbidden fruit, the **APPLE IPOD MINI** is the most coveted gadget on everyone's wish list. Improving on the originals design, it is the smallest and lightest (weighs just 3.6 ounces!) portable music player ever. It holds up to 1,000 CD-quality songs and is available in five delicious colors: silver, gold, pink, blue, and green. Temptation never looked (and sounded) this good. How else can you resist? Available at

Ciara Creates

Add a little sparkle to your day. Ciara Creates line of earrings, pendants, brooches and bag tags will surely brighten up any outfit with its various glass crystals, pearls and gemstones entwined in artful pieces of wire. Each one of this unique flirty and playful pieces are specially handcrafted so wear it and feel as though it was made having you in mind. And as if that is not enough, the crystals give out energy that contributes to your sense of inner peace and balance.

Just a Note to Say

Kashieca

Glorietta 2 Ayala Center

Just as full skirts, flirty minis and ribbon belts have reappeared on women's waists, so has the much-missed sweet shop Kashieca. Now under the Bench family, Kashieca sets a fresh sugary mood with its candy-colored clothing line and delightful fruit-drop jewels. Get your fix of much needed sugar (fashion) rush and be a part of a fresh start.

Levi's Lady's Style Range

You've spent hours on the StepMaster and a few more in stretching class but all you've accomplished so far is a sore bum and strained muscles. Gladly trade your gym fee for an illustrious pair of LEVI'S Diva Jeans. The figure-molding and seductive silhouettes of this latest offering from Levi's makes legsappear longer and derrieres perkier with an additional panel down the side of the jean and heart-shaped palm-sized pockets resting high on your rear. In addition to being cut to perfection, each pair is embellished with signature elements that bring attention to the delicious female form and even some adorned with brilliant Swarovski crystals along the Arcuate stitching on the rivets. Look like a million dollars without breaking a sweat with Levi's Lady Style Range.

Shu Uemura Ai Yamaguchi Limited Edition Cleansing Oil

Although you spend hours in front of the mirror and the slightest sign of a pimple cause you as much stress as your next deadline, it doesn't mean that you couldn't care less about the world around you. **SHU UEMURA** launches its Limited Edition Cleansing Oils with a new packaging created by Japanese designer Ai Yamaguchi. For every purchase of this impeccable cleansing oil a percentage goes to the Ayala Foundation children's charity Centex. Get tied to the cause and be beautiful inside and out.

Paul Smith

Set sail as Paul Smith Women presents its Autumn/Winter 2004 collection with its more dressy line – Blue Label. Carrying a nautical theme, their separates disply ribbons, sailor stripes, graphic anchors, chains, and badges. Lounge on the ship's sundeck with the Pink Label's more casual pieces. Classics with a twist, these pieces reinforce Paul Smith's signature style as surprising details with misplaced pockets, bright flashes of colors, and big buttons. Make waves as you interpret the season's "Nautical but Nice" themeß

bare essentials

Get healthy glowing skin from head to foot with five basic home spa treatments that keeps skin soft and radiant

Photography **RICHARD PEREZ**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Hair and Makeup **BENJIE ANGELES**
Model **CHE RAM** of CalCarrie's International Models Philippines

(Clockwise from right):
FRUIT ESSENCE FACIAL MASQUE, P88; RELAXING FO
BUBBLE GUM, P69; SIMPLY DIVINE REAL COOL MANG
P79.75; INTENSIVE FORMULA COLLAGEN HAND CREA
HONEY & BEE POLLEN HAIR TREATMENT, P99.75.
All available at **WATSON'S**

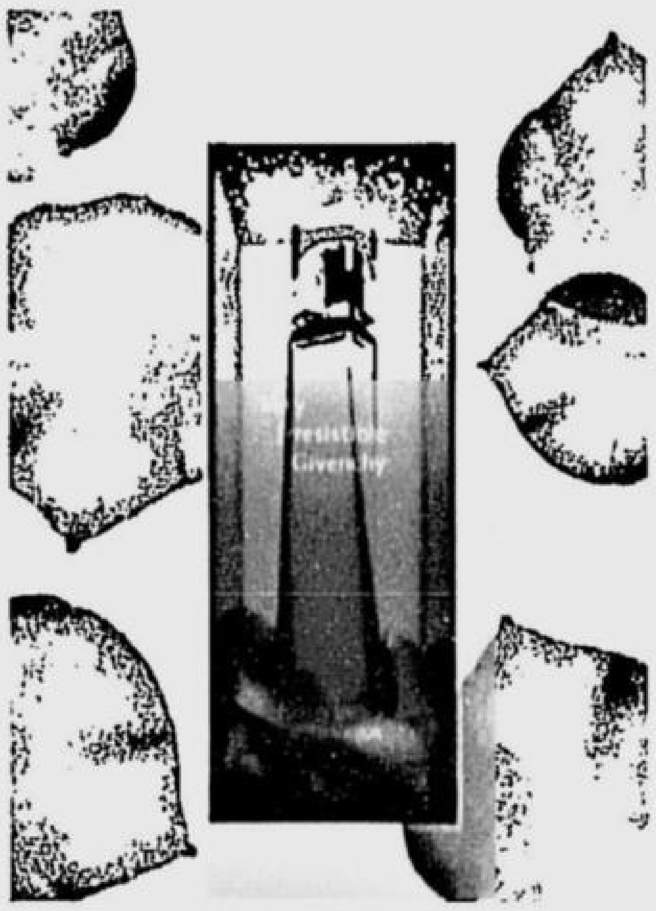
fragrant winners

Take your pick from this season's fresh floral fragrances

Roses: VERY IRRESISTIBLE GIVENCHY, 50 ml., P2,650;
Jasmine: YVES SAINT LAURENT RIVE GAUCHE, 50 ml., P2,500;
Wild Hawthorne: FLOWERbyKENZO LE PARFUM, 50 ml., P2,900;
Lotus: BVLGARI OMNIA CRYSTALLINE, 40 ml., P3,450.
All available at **RUSTAN'S**

YVES SAINT LAURENT
rive gauche

FLOWERBYKENZO



fruity refreshments

Made from fruits known to naturally promote beautiful skin, these are packed to fit your purse for quick and refreshing touch-ups

bench/
Cucum
refreshing
Apricot
whitening
cleansing cloth

BENCH/ORGANICS CUCUMBER REFRESHING MAKE-UP REMOVER AND FACIAL CLEANSER, P25;
BENCH/ORGANICS APRICOT WHITENING CLEANING CLOTH, P12.50.
Both from **BENCH**

vanity hair

bench/
FIX
SHINE ON
anti-frizz
hair mist
150 mL

instant
FIX
HAIR REFRESHER
CERISE
FIX
1 fl oz. 50 mL

Give your hair the attention it deserves with products that keep it looking smooth and smelling fresh all day long

Photography **COI SAMOTH**

BENCH/FIX SHINE ON ANTI-FRIZZ HAIR MIST, P105;
BENCH/FIX HAIR REFRESHER CERISE, P75.
Both from **BENCH**

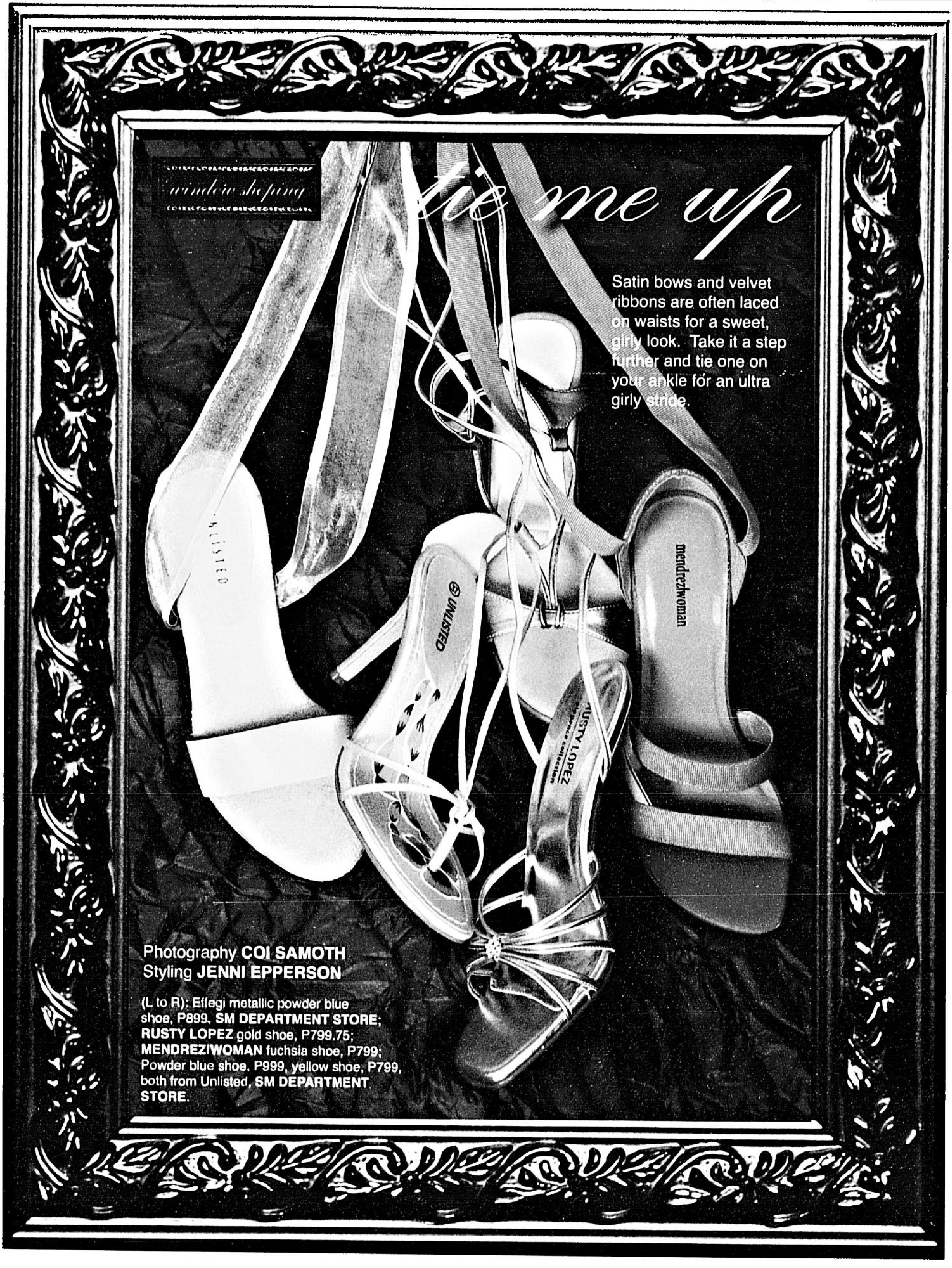
directory

ARANAZ MANILA 2nd level City Golf Plaza, Julia Vargas St., Pasig **BAYO** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, 2nd floor Alabang Town Center. **BE** 3rd floor Citiwalk Glorietta 2 Ayala Center **BENCH** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, The 5th Shangri-La Plaza **BETTER THAN BARE** BSA Mansion, 108 Benavidez St., Legaspi Village, Makati 8166892. **BOTTEGA VENETA** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center **CLASSIC CHARMZ** Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **CAROLINA'S LACE SHOPPE** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level SM Megamall Bldg B **CELINE** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza. **CMG** 2nd floor Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza. **DKNY** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center. **FINO LEATHERWARE** Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **FREEWAY** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level Robinson's Galleria. **GIRL SHOPPE** Hip 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **JANYLIN** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level Robinson's Galleria **K2** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center **LEVI'S** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, Robinson's Galleria **MANGO** Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, 3rd level Shangri-La Plaza **MARCELLA** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 3rd level Robinson's Galleria **MASTERPIECE FURNITURE & INTERIORS BY SIMBULAN** International Design Center Manila Suite 116 LRI Business Plaza, N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati 890-8258 **MENDREZIWOMAN** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center. **MIMI COSMETICS** 2nd level Lifestyles at Rockwell Powerplant Mall Rockwell **MIX CLOTHING** 3rd floor Citiwalk Glorietta 2 Ayala Center **PAUL SMITH** 3rd level Shangri-La Plaza **RUSTAN'S** Makati, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Plaza **RUSTY LOPEZ** 3rd level Robinson's Galleria. **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center **SM DEPARTMENT STORE** Makati, Mega Mall, South Mall. **SOUK GALLERY** 2nd floor The Crescent 21, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig **THE BLACK SHOP** Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Robinson's Galleria **THE BODY SHOP** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, Shangri-La Plaza. **TOD'S** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center **TOPSHOP** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, 2nd level Lifestyles at Rockwell Power Plant Mall, 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza. **TWEEDS** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level Robinson's Galleria. **TYLER** 3rd floor Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Powerplant Mall Rockwell **WATSON'S** 2nd level The Podium, SM Megamall Bldg. A. **YRYS** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level Robinson's Galleria.

ADMATE 753-1698. **BENJIE ANGELES** 0922-8071505. **CALCARRIE'S INTERNATIONAL MODELS PHILIPPINES** Suite 1514 Herrera Tower 98 Herrera Street, Salcedo Village, Makati 8440350. **TOM EPPERSON** 890-3621. **ESSENSUALS BY TONI & GUY** 6750 Retail Arcade 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati 8128559 **RHETT EALA** Eurovilla 3 condo 154 Leviste St. Unit 11V Salcedo Vill., Mkt., 09175293933 **GROOVY ANNE** 0917-5312131. **MARK NICDAO** 0927-3410558 **PUEY QUINONES** 0916-7763098. **COI SAMOTH** coi_samoth@yahoo.com/09279515450. **ANIELLE SANTOS** anielle_santos@hotmail.com. **VIKTOR JEANS BY INO CALUZA** 0917-8504543.

tie me up

Satin bows and velvet ribbons are often laced on waists for a sweet, girly look. Take it a step further and tie one on your ankle for an ultra girly stride.



Photography **COI SAMOTH**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**

(L to R): Effegi metallic powder blue shoe, P899, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE; RUSTY LOPEZ** gold shoe, P799.75; **MENDREZIWOMAN** fuchsia shoe, P799; Powder blue shoe, P999, yellow shoe, P799, both from Unlisted, **SM DEPARTMENT STORE.**

♂
molecules
i see me

Available at SM outlets nationwide.

♀
particles
i see me

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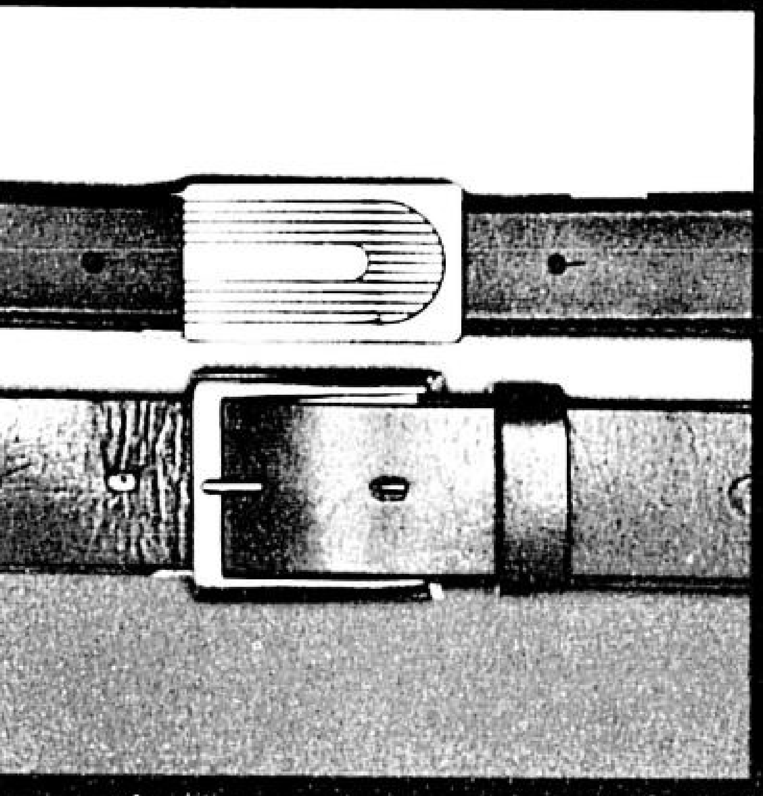
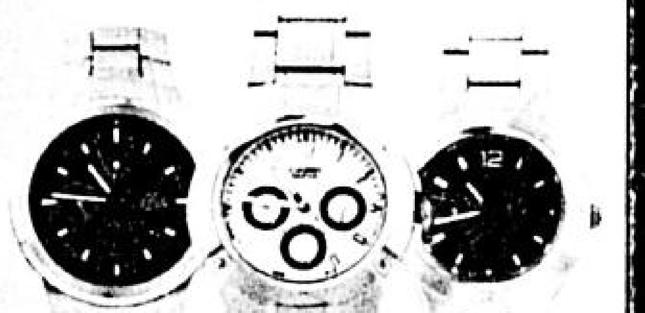
MEN'S ACCESSORIES

up to 50% off great selections

Now thru Oct. 3



get a chance to WIN -A- CASIO WATCH with every P500 purchase



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